# RAMSEY & WARBOYS REPORTER

ISSUE 16 • OCTOBER 2016

COVERING LOCAL NEWS, SERVING LOCAL PEOPLE

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## CRAFT FESTIVAL BRINGS IN CROWDS

Over 300 people attended a Festival of Crafts in Ramsey Town Centre, browsing from a selection of over thirty traders selling all manner of home-made wares.

The festival was organized by the Promoting Ramsey Project and supported by the Ramsey Millions Partnership.

Professional sellers mingled with amateur artists and groups such as the Ramsey Crafters, who operate as a single group to help sell members wares. Each member provides 10% from their sales to the group, who then fund the work of the others and arrange local events.

*For the full story, turn to page 9*

# Memorial dedicated to Spitfire pilot

A memorial was dedicated to a Spitfire pilot who crashed in Holme Fen during World War Two on Thursday September 22nd.

Pilot Officer Harold Penketh's Mark 1 Spitfire crashed into the field just outside Holme Village on November 22, 1940, during a high altitude training flight just after the end of the Battle of Britain.

The former insurance salesman was a member of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, and had less than 20 hours flight time before the crash, which is believed to have been caused by a fault with the on-board oxygen system.

In a moving and emotional service, the memorial was uncovered by Harold Penketh's closest living relatives, his cousins Sheila Morris and Valetta Cranmer, before being blessed by the Bishop of Huntingdon.

The former crash site, which was the subject of excavation earlier this year, will now be rejuvenated by the Great Fen Project as part of its ongoing work, while the memorial will become part of a historical trail from Peterborough to Ramsey.

*To find out more, turn to page 8*

## INSIDE THE RAMSEY & WARBOYS REPORTER

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# The Local Picture

RAMSEY REPORTER 1 YEAR OLD

**"I bet if you asked everyone they would say how wonderful it is. This is what Ramsey needs - a thriving Saturday morning, people happy, people spending, people talking to each other. It involves all age groups, it involves all walks of life. Everyone is happy and talking to each other "**

**Pat Taylor, Former Mayor of Ramsey - speaking about the Festival of Crafts**

**9**
The number of bears which were flung in the Pidley Teddy Bear Freefall.
See more on Page 21

## HAVE YOUR SAY

See what our readers have been saying about their issues on page 22

**7:50** The time in Ramsey according to the broken clock tower

## ARTS FEST AGM

Ramsey Arts Festival is holding its AGM in Ramsey library on October 12th 7-30pm. The committee asks that you please come along and find out what's going on with the festival next year – all welcome, a glass of wine awaits!

**4591** The number of votes local Councillor Lisa Duffy gained in her bid to be leader of the United Kingdom Independance Party.
She came second to MEP Diane James.

Head to page 24 to read our opinion columns for this month, including Cllr Ian Curtis' new regular column.

**20** The years in the future Bury's neighbourhood plan team is looking ahead to.

**75** The number of catagories at the Bury Village Garden and Produce Show, where judges scored a range of items including cakes, photographs and gardens. New this year was the Homemade Fudge catagory.

**28** The number of visits paid to Warboys by Anglia Water due to a clogged pump.
See Page 4 for more

## NEW IN THIS MONTH

We have full reports on three major town and village events, including the Festival of Crafts and Bury Village Garden and Produce Show.

## Corrections and Complaints

Having received communications from St Peter's and the Upwood Parish Council, we would like to correct an error in last month's publication.

As part of the P3 article entitled 'Get me to the church (on time)'. It was stated that a party cancelled a wedding due to accessibility issues. While there was indeed a cancellation for a preliminary booking this year, it was not relating to access to the church. We would like to apologize for any offence caused.

RAMSEY & WARBOYS REPORTER **ON LINE**

## ITS A GOOD MONTH FOR

### FITNESS

Our editor Adam has lost over one stone in weight - find out how by turning to page 31

## ITS A BAD MONTH FOR

### ROADWORKS

...Again! Residents in Ramsey Heights and Bury have been affected this time!

## THE NATIONAL VIEW

### WHAT WILL AFFECT YOU THIS MONTH?

**A different article**
Prime Minister Theresa May is still under pressure from campaign groups to invoke Article 50, despite polls showing the majority of voters are still unsure.

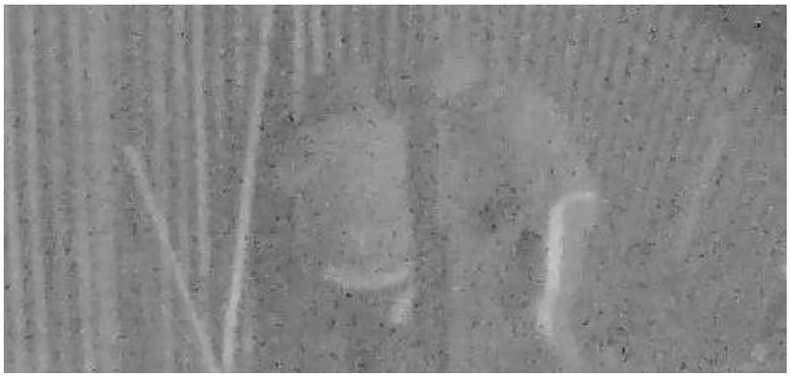
**The come-back kid**
Jeremy Corbyn will continue as Labour leader despite the challenge from Owen Smith. Labour MP's are scrambling to maintain their seats in the upcoming boundary changes.

**Boris' Turkey dinner**
The newly appointed Foreign Secretary found himself in a bit of bother last month. Not only did a close colleague accuse him of lying about his Brexit stance, but he has also been criticised for supporting Turkey's EU bid.

Dates for your Diary

## OCTOBER

**2nd** **The Somme Remembered** Ramsey Mortuary Chapel
**8th** **Rotary Club** Last night of the Proms - Abbey College
**29th/30th** **RamJam Childrens Book Festival** Ramsey Library
**30th** **Winter Food Fair** Ramsey Rural Museum



# Suspects still on run after arson attack

Police are still pursuing leads after two men were caught on CCTV committing an arson attack on a Ramsey business early last month.

Detectives have released CCTV images of two men they want to trace in connection with the arson in Ramsey on Saturday September 10th.

The incident happened between 10pm and 10.40pm on Ramsey's High Lode Industrial Estate, Stocking Fen Road at an industrial unit. The unit, a car bodyshop, was deliberately set alight and the fire has caused significant damage to the premises.

Detectives investigating the circumstances of the fire have released CCTV images of two men seen in the area at the time of the incident. A statement made by the police states:

"We would like to hear from anyone who recognises the men in the images as we would like to speak to them in connection with this fire. Although the CCTV isn't the best quality the men are wearing fairly distinctive clothing which we are hoping will lead to identifying them."

Anyone with information should contact police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

To see more CCTV, go to the RWR website.

# UNCLOGGING WARBOYS!

## ANGLIAN WATER IS INVESTING £5,000 INTO THE RAMSEY ROAD PUMPING STATION IN WARBOYS FOLLOWING A NUMBER OF SEWERAGE ISSUES.

The money will go towards replacing the two existing pumps and introducing auto reverse smart technology to help dislodge the items causing the blockages. Anglian Water have asked the Parish Council to help in publicising the problems caused by village residents flushing inappropriate materials down toilets, which led blockages at the pumping station.

Anglian Water has attended 28 blockages in Warboys over the previous 12 months whereas they would normally expect this to occur about 6 times per annum for a village of this size. More than 5 tonnes of unflushable items have been pumped out of the pumping station and disposed of. These items include wipes and sanitary waste in addition to fats, oils and grease poured down sinks, all of which cause the blockages.

Emma Staples from Anglian Water said: "Pumping stations play a vital role in taking sewage and used water away from our homes and businesses to be safely treated. But if everyday items like wipes and sanitary waste they are flushed down the toilet rather than being put in the bin they can cause blockages on pipes and pumps leading to nasty smells, or worse still pollution of the environment and sewer flooding to people homes and gardens. Even products marked 'flushable' do not break down in the sewer like toilet paper. We're campaigning to make wipes and sanitary product manufacturers change their labelling, and we regularly jet sewers and clear pumps to keep the system flowing, but we still have to go out to clear a blockage roughly every 15 minutes. If residents can do their bit by binning these items rather than flushing, we can reduce avoidable blockages and put that effort and money to good use elsewhere."

Residents are asked to help by disposing of the unflushable items into bins rather than into toilets and sinks.

***Photo: A typical image of a blocked pump, although it should be noted this is not an image of the pump in Warboys***

# RAMSEY SAFETY ZONE TO BE SET UP

Ramsey is to host its own Safety Zone event, after similar events took place in St Ives, St Neots and Huntingdon last month.

The event is being hosted by Ramsey PCSOs Vicki Docking and Jill Tiernan, with support from Jill Gibbs at the fire service. Ramsey has not been able to participate recently due to a lack of funding.

Designed for Year 5 pupils, the Safety Zone will offer children the opportunity to learn more about safety with the use of separate zones run by different partner agencies about specific types of safety.

Ramsey's event will be held from the 11th to the 13th of October at Ramsey Fire Station, with the Fire Service, Police, Trading Standards, Road Safety, Woodgreen and Network Rail agencies all in attendance, with sponsorship provided by Ramsey Tesco, Children from primary schools in Ramsey, Bury, Warboys, Ashbeach and Somersham have been invited. At the event, attendees will be split up into groups and go around each station learning about Safety.

Station Commander Dave Lynch, responsible at the fire service for children and young people, commented on the events saying: "The safety zones across the county are growing now and we're continually getting positive feedback. Each event requires a huge amount of support from a host of different organisations and really epitomizes the value of partnership working."

# All fun and games at Head Start Nursery School

This term has brought some new and exciting extra activities for the children at Head Start Nursery School. The children will now be regularly taking part in Cricket/Rugby Sessions with Tom from Oak Activities and in physical play and relaxation sessions with Stephen from Monkeynastix. The children had their first sessions at the beginning of September where they participated in various different activities developing their flexibility, balance, strength, agility, co-ordination and body awareness as well as helping to promote teamwork, fitness and wellbeing. Both the staff and the children had an amazing time and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, and are looking forward to attending more. Head Start will be holding both these sessions on a regularly basis for the children whom attend the setting, as well as some more new and exciting things to come in the next month.

We still have some spaces available for more information please contact us on
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# Dignitaries turn out for Civic Service

Cllr Adela Costello hosted her second Civic Service early last month, with guests including many Fenland Town Mayors and the current High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire. The service was held on Sunday September 4th at St Thomas a Becket Church.

Readings were given by High Sheriff Sir David Arculus and former Warboys Councillor and last year's High Sheriff Captain Victor Lucas, alongside Ramsey Promotions Officer Ann Cuthbert, who read an extract from Sybil Marshall's Fenland Chronicle. Music was provided by the Ramsey Choral Society and the Church Choir, while Canon Richard Darmondy conducted the service.

A poem written by Ramsey resident Patricia Short was also read by Doug McIlwain, Ramsey's Deputy Mayor. Patricia wrote the piece in commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday, and has received a letter from Buckingham Palace thanking her.

Following the ceremony, wreaths were laid at the Ramsey War Memorial to mark Merchant Navy weekend, as the Ramsey War Memorial is one of only a few in the country to mark the seamen who lost their lives during the Second World War.

Steve Tierney, Deputy Mayor of Wisbech, later commented on the high standard of the service on his blog, saying "It was a very pleasant way to spend an afternoon and I enjoyed chatting to the various civic folk and local people at the reception afterwards. I'd like to thank the Mayor of Ramsey, Cllr Mrs Adela Costello for the invitation and congratulate her and her team on an excellent service."

# Feast your eyes!

## WCA announces Feast Week figures

The Warboys Community Association announced on Facebook they had raised £1,600 during Warboys Feast Week, after holding several events.

One of the most popular events in the Warboys calendar, Feast Week celebrates the feast of St Mary Magdalene, from whom the Parish Church takes its name. The week is typically marked by the arrival of the fair, but this year the Community Association, with some help and financial support from the Parish Council, provided two entertainment events - an Elvis impersonator show on the Saturday followed by the Picnic in the Park on the Sunday, both of which were widely attended.

In a statement released by the WCA on the Warboys Parish Council Facebook page, the group thanked all that took part, saying they were "delighted with all the support for our Feast weekend events and we raised a magnificent total of £1600, most of which will go into the WCA grant fund." They added that stall holders who took part in the Picnic in the Park collectively raised around £1000 either for their own groups or for named charities.

The Parish Council also expressed their gratitude for the hard work of the Association. The next WCA event will be "Warboys It's A Knockout" on Monday 1 May 2017.

# TRAVELLER'S CAMP CAUSES CONCERN IN RAMSEY

Concern has been raised by residents and town councillors following a temporary stop by travellers at a site on the outskirts of Ramsey.

The group, which consisted of approximately ten caravans and a number of other vehicles, made camp on a piece of disused land off the B1040 situated across from the Railway. Landowners, who were not aware of the group's intentions, did begin eviction proceedings but the group had departed by the end of the week, despite assurances given to Cllr Peter Reeve that they would be leaving several days before.

The camp prompted debate on social media from residents, most of whom were concerned about their intentions, although some did state they were indifferent to their presence. Local business was also disrupted, with both the Railway and the petrol station attached to Tesco affected.

Debris and rubbish was left in the area following the travellers departure, which was later cleaned by several parties including Ramsey Town Councillor Robert Brown.

# Pipped to the post

Ramsey Councillor Lisa Duffy came second in the race to become the next UKIP Party Leader, following a party conference in Bournemouth last month.

Cllr Duffy, who was the first UKIP Mayor in the country following their takeover of Ramsey Town Council, won 4,591 votes but lost out to Diane James MEP. Also in the race were Bill Etheridge, Elizabeth Jones and Philip Broughton, all of whom polled lower than Cllr Duffy.

Speaking to HCR104fm earlier this month Cllr Duffy thanked supporters, going on to say "It's been a really big learning curve, a fantastic experience and one that I am really, really glad that I went through"

Cllr Duffy attracted national headlines during her campaign after suggesting there should be a ban on Muslim faith schools and that burkas should not be worn in high security areas.

Diane James has already begun to make her mark on the party, changing the conference schedule hours after being voted in as leader.

# WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR CLOCK?

Ramsey residents will be thankful that the Great Whyte is now clear of roadworks, but one slight blemish still remains, a stopped clock!

The town centre icon has been several hours out for months, and recently has not been functioning properly. It is thought that some mechanisms may have been disrupted by work taking place in the area, although it has not been confirmed what has caused this most recent breakdown.

Ramsey Town Councillor Hadyn Edwards did attempt to repair some functions of the clock, managing to light two of the four bulbs surrounding the clock face, but reported a loud bang and sparks when attempting to bring the full mechanism back into working order. He has suggested that either a professional electrocution or a clock specialist would be required to repair the Ramsey landmark, which has been a part of the town centre for generations.

**What do you think? Should the clock be fixed? Perhaps you think Ramsey should go digital? Let us know by sending your comments to mail@ramseyandwarboysreporter.co.uk**

# Job Search

Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust

Looking for employment, interested in changing your job? Ramsey Neighbourhoods trust run a Job Search session at Ramsey Library every Monday and Wednesday morning from 10 till 12. Staff and volunteers are available to support you in looking and applying for jobs, to help you create your CV and to signpost you to any relevant department you may need for a major enquiry.

We are fortunate that local employers are advertising their vacancies with us. These positions can be found on the Job Search notice board or in the folder, both located in the Library, or on our facebook page jobsearchramsey.

In July Digital Inclusion ran a 4 week Online Basic course at the Library, which was attended by those wanting some insight into using computers. Jenny is keen to repeat this course, anybody interested please contact me to register your interest and give me times and dates that would be suitable to you.

Local Employers – please continue to advertise your jobs with us, we are keen to give local people a chance to apply for jobs in the local area. If you have a vacancy contact me on the email below or pop into the Library one Monday or Wednesday morning – no costs involved.

## News from Ramsey Phoenix Project

Ramsey Phoenix attend the job search sessions to keep members up to date with the courses they are offering. The latest course is 'All about Animals'. There have been some very interesting talks so far from K9 project in Ely, RSPCA and local businesses, Anna from Divine Canine Doggy Day care and Nikki from Friends For Life Grooming Parlour. We hope to have other local businesses popping in throughout the course.

The participants of the first course 'Organising and Event, Ghost Hunt", are staging their first event on Monday 31st October at The George Hotel in Ramsey. Further details and tickets are available from RNT office.

Future events: Green Skills project at Gauntlet Auto Project Ramsey. This gives the applicants practical experience through working on real projects, CSCS card, revision help and study support, support for future job prospects and one to one employment support, including interview skills and practice. Contact me for further details. Course starts 10th November.

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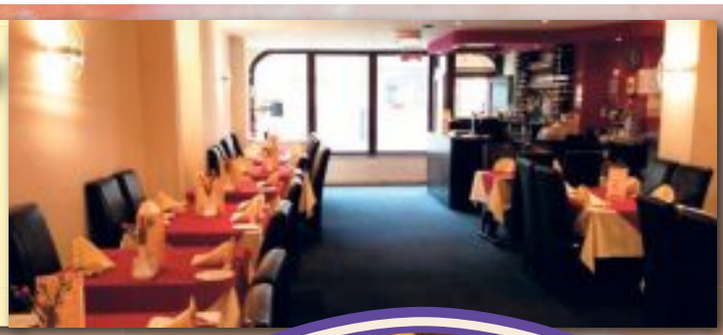

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# Hedge destruction under investigation by HDC

Huntingdonshire District Council has launched an investigation after a local resident spotted a section of torn down hedging bordering farmers' fields just off Stocking Fen Road.

Karen Barker, who has lived in the area for over two decades, spotted the destroyed greenery while journeying with a friend, and described the scene as "A bit of a shock". "It is quite a pretty stretch of road", she noted, "and the hedgerows had been literally just torn up. I can't even imagine permission was given to do this, it seems like such a short sighted thing to do!" After witnessing the damage, Karen put a formal complaint in to the HDC planning department.

The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 protect most countryside hedgerows from being removed (including being uprooted or otherwise destroyed). This is due to hedgerows serving as important wildlife corridors, especially in this area. Hedges also serve to stabilise the soil and on slopes help prevent soil creep or the leaching of minerals and plant nutrients, and thus removal will weaken the soil and lead to erosion.

Richard Siwicki, planning enforcement officer with the Huntingdonshire District Council, confirmed that the complaint was under investigation, and that planning officials had visited the site on September 6th. The matter is now awaiting consolation with a horticultural specialist, as HDC do not currently have a tree protection officer on staff.

"The legislation talks about the removal of the hedgerows, the question is whether it will grow back or not", said Mr Siwicki, and urged the landowner or anyone with pertinent information to come forward.

If you have any knowledge of these events, HDC asks you contact the planning department regarding this matter.

# Golf Club provides Link 4 Coffee with new setting

Local business networking forum Link 4 Coffee held its first meeting at the Old Nene Golf Club early last month, having moved from the Rendezvous Café.

The new venue attracted over twenty-five local businesspeople, most of whom enjoyed a tea or coffee in the light and airy new building on the site. Ramsey's Mayor Cllr Adela Costello was on hand to help promote the local area to the networkers, some of whom travelled in from Peterborough, Stamford and Cambridge.

Link4Coffee events are informal and relaxed drop-in sessions, organized to provide a regular opportunity for businesspeople of all kinds to connect with others in their local community. According to the company website, "at a Link4Growth community networking event, you will find yourself in a friendly environment where you are able to tap into the connections and experience of others."

Joan Richardson, who organises the group, thanked both the new hosts and Rendezvous, saying "I think when you are introducing people to each other, one of the things you do need is good sound, and while we were so well looked after in Rendezvous – Keith and his family are just fantastic – the room was a tad too small and the acoustics were just not helpful. Here, it's fantastic."

She also offered some insight into the world of networking, saying "It can be scary, and if you are working on your own it can be a bit scary going out and talking to other human beings". As for the benefits, Joan noted there is both a social and a business aspect to the group: "Networking from a business point of view, when you're talking to people and finding out who they are, you can then offer them help not just in business but in everyday life, and the great thing about this group is that its Ramsey based, but its not just business it is community as well. That's what I really like about this group".

Link4Growth is a not for profit organisation helping to rebuild communities and is open to anyone who wishes to come along and meet, talk, listen, learn and connect with others in their local community.

*Children from Holme C of E Primary School left tributes during the ceremony*

# Holme Spitfire crash pilot memorialized at site

Around 70 people gathered to commemorate a pilot who crashed during the Second World War at Holme Lode when his MkI Spitfire dived into the ground.

Harold Penketh was a Pilot Officer in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. A former insurance worker, he was killed on November 22, 1940, during a high altitude training flight just after the end of the Battle of Britain. He was aged just 20.

His flight took off from RAF Wittering, a base still in use by the Royal Air Force, which provided a sizeable contingent to the service. Also present were members of Project Nightingale, an organisation which provides support for veterans with use of archaeology to help with rehabilitation of conditions such as P.T.S.D.

Several notable local figures participated in the service, including members of the military chaplaincy and the Bishop of Huntingdon, who blessed the memorial. Relatives Sheila Morris and Valetta Cranmer B.E.M were also present, unveiling the stone before Mrs Cranmer spoke about her lost cousin, saying how they believed until only months ago that Harold had been lost at sea.

Among those who turned out to remember Pilot Officer Penketh was Maxy, a lifelong resident of Holme who witnessed the crash when he was just ten years old. He recalled riding on a tractor that day, and watching the plane going down. He described the events leading up to the crash, saying "I suppose you would call it a dog-fight. They were twisting and turning, and then this particular one – well there was like a revving sound, and then it just nosedived and is spiralled into the ground!". The pilots had been practicing high altitude manoeuvres at the time of the crash.

The memorial brings to a close a lengthy process that began with the excavation of P/O Penketh's Spitfire in October of last year. Oxford Archaeology East excavated the aircraft on behalf of the Wildlife Trust, with the remains entrusted to the Pathfinder Museum at RAF Wyton. The Great Fen project is now planning to continue their development of the site. Caroline Fitton, from the Great Fen Project, explained how the memorial would fit into that future, saying "This stone is going to be part of a heritage trail that people will be able to come and look at, so people will be able to come and pay their respects or leave flowers if they want to."

For now, Pilot Officer Howard Penketh's memorial remains a telling reminder of the tragedies of war.

# My day at the Craft Fair

*by Emily Bradley-Dorman*

Saturday 24th of September saw the Great Whyte in Ramsey transformed into its very own Craft Fair with the center of town filled with exciting and beautifully made craft. It was a hive of new and interesting stalls that saw crafters from all over setting up shop for the morning.

The thing I love most about craft – in general – is that every piece will be slightly different. Even when making something in bulk you are making them by hand and little inconsistencies always appear. I've spoken to people in the past who see this as a negative, but to me it is those little variations that make each and every product or art piece unique and special. In days gone by craft used to be an occupation and a necessity not a hobby as today. Over the years we've become more and more reliant on mass produced, manufactured items rather than those we can craft ourselves. Craft equals craftsmanship and as a practitioner myself it is refreshing to see it starting to make a comeback. Events like the Craft Fair in Ramsey are beginning to attract more and more people revealing skills, that until recently, were hidden away.

From the moment I arrived on the Great Whyte the street was a buzz with customers, everyone intrigued to see what was happening in out town centre. Each and every stall was different with a variety of crafts on offer, from hand crafted wooden toys to one-of-a-kind bags. Christmas reefs to jewellery. Pet inspired home wear to jams. Everything you could have imagined was on show for the Great Whyte that sunny Saturday morning.

In addition, it was lovely seeing a gathering of friendly faces, some familiar and some not but all chitchatting away as they took in what was on offer. From a crafter's point of view everything was handsomely made and it was really nice seeing everyone enjoying him or herself.

The fair also had a positive impact on local shopkeepers. One said,

'Today has been the busiest day ever in the history of Wildfrost cafe! Thank you to my fabulous staff (Maria and Maureen) and my wonderful customers. Also a huge thank you to Ann Cuthbert and her team for organising a wonderful festival of crafts in Ramsey town today.'

The feedback from stallholders was also very encouraging and Ann Cuthbert, Ramsey Promotions Officer, was delighted with the way in which the event was received.

The Promoting Ramsey Project is funded by Ramsey Million.

For details about Ramsey, it's attractions and retailers visit www.discoverramsey.co.uk

**Facebook: Discover Ramsey**

**Twitter: @discover_ramsey**

# HIGHLIGHTING THE REAL RAMSEY

*Opinion by Adam Roberts*

"It really is an ideal situation today and what we need is for people to come into Ramsey, see it is thriving and that people are happy and really enjoying a Saturday in old England."

Those two lines, spoken to me towards the end of last month's Festival of Craft by former Ramsey Mayor Pat Taylor, perfectly summarised the feel of the town centre that Saturday.

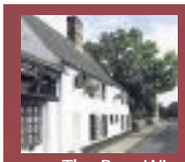
She was not alone in her sentiments. Residents and organizers alike had come up to me throughout the morning and spoken along similar lines: "It's nice to see everyone stopping and talking" said one, while another noted "how wonderful it is that people are staying, everyone usually just nips in and out". It was plain to see, particularly for those who had brought their dogs! I even felt sorry for one particular group, whose 8-month-old Newfoundland was attracting so much attention it took them two hours just to make it up and down the Great Whyte!

The day harkened back to an older Ramsey, one where mingling was commonplace, and is exactly how a fenland town should feel on a Saturday morning. There was energy and laughter with families happily spreading across the stalls, making jokes and meeting with friends they had perhaps not seen for some time. More importantly, it allowed younger generations to mix with their older counterparts, and in a year that has been defined by a generational gap it allowed both groups to see the positives in one another. Put simply, it was the kind of

classic English day that can see you joking with complete strangers, which for me exemplifies a spirit that is classically British.

Will we see it again in the future? Doug McIlwayne, Ramsey's Deputy Mayor, certainly hopes so, saying after he opened the event that "for years now Ramsey has been struggling to attract people into the town, not just on a Saturday but all week. This is absolutely amazing that we can see over 30 stalls here today."

With the future of the regular market still in doubt, the Promoting Ramey Project has thrown down the gauntlet and shown that success can be achieved. What remains now is to see who will pick this up and continue the legacy of Ramsey's fantastic community spirit.

The Bow Window Restaurant

The Bow Window Restaurant started in August 1979, in a beautiful building built around 1450 with Inglenook fireplaces and Oak beams. Originally family owned but now under new management by long serving Chefs Simon Harding and James Reed. After 30 years, it is still one of the Leading Restaurants in Cambridgeshire. Over the years there have been many improvements made, including an extended dining and bar area.

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# Everyone enjoys a Big, Friendly Read!

Libraries across the local area celebrated the end of the Big, Friendly Read challenge with events and prize-giving last month.

The Big Friendly Read Summer Reading challenge was for children aged 4-11years to read at least 6 books over the summer holidays.

At Ramsey Library, the hard work and effort of all 70 children participating was rewarded with a medal and certificate at the annual ceremony.

Throughout the summer holidays, staff and volunteers held special sessions in the library to listen to the children talk about the books they had read and to hand out Roald Dahl collectors wallets and cards. The children could also participate in simple craft activities.

Ramsey library released a statement offering "a big thank you to our lovely staff and volunteers who helped with the sessions, parents for bringing their children along to the library and of course the children who participated."

In the neighbouring village, Warboys Library marked the end of Big Friendly Read with a literacy event sponsored by the Parish Council.

Prizes were awarded to local schoolchildren participating in the Big Friendly Read by Warboys Councillor Peter Bucknell, current Chairman of the District Council, at an evening in the library earlier this month.

Warboys Parish Council later published the story on social media, saying "Library staff have worked incredibly hard over the summer holidays to provide these events and we really appreciate everything they do for our community. The children had a great time and were delighted to receive their certificates."

Cllr Bucknell also commented, saying "I was so pleased to accept giving the Prizes to the Children in Warboys and made my diary free for that afternoon, it was a pleasure for me surrounded by our youngest residents".

# PLOUGH DAY
## AS POPULAR AS EVER!

Volunteers at the Ramsey Rural Museum recorded over 1000 entrants on Plough Day, a traditional town festival run by the organisation annually.

Alongside the many residents and tourists that visited the site on the 25th of September were both modern and vintage tractors, classic cars, work and show horses, dogs, stall-holders, WWII re-enactors and the Heartsease Folk Dance Group, who performed three times throughout the day.

Despite short showers in the morning, the ground remained firm and the sun soon shone, allowing visitors to stream through the gates that only weeks ago were used for the Ramsey 1940's weekend.

Particular fan favorites included the traditional horse ploughs, which were being driven by several teams of horses throughout the day, and over ten vintage tractors which ploughed through most of the fields surrounding site. Marvin Buddle, a Warboys resident who helps organize the tractor teams, commented that "There isn't quite as many tractors as what we've had in the past, but I think it's important. It brings everybody together."

Terry Heslin MBE, Chair of Ramsey Rural Museum, later spoke of what they were trying to achieve with the event, characterizing it in four words: "Old fashioned country fair – that's what we try and replicate. Obviously we're trying to build on it, we have the classic cars now, and of course the stars of the show are the horses, which is what everybody comes for".

Visitors to Plough Day were also treated to a Dog Show at the 1940's camp, which visitors could walk freely into after viewing the classic tractors ploughing. Organised by Ramsey Dog Club in aid of Hounds For Heroes, the show was exceptionally well attended by both hounds and humans, with events ranging from the traditional dog show to prizes for novelty classes and recall events, where dogs were timed running over obstacles and back to their owners.

Profits from Plough day go towards funding the exhibits at the museum as well as other events held throughout the year. Judging from the turnout, Ramsey Rural Museum will be secure for another year.

*Young plougher Tom, sitting on his 1954 Grey Ferguson*

# UKIP suffers another defection

Cllr Micheal Tew, who represents the Bury and Upwood ward in Cambridgeshire County Council, has left the United Kingdom Independence Party and will stand as a Conservative in next year's election.

Cllr Tew, who has identified as a UKIP councillor at both town and county level, said in a statement he had decided to move "After soul searching for over a year". After informing UKIP officials of his change in stance, he was suspended by group leader Cllr Paul Bullen, although it is not clear if this relates to Cllr Tew's membership of the party.

In his statement, Cllr Tew highlighted a lack of cohesion within UKIP nationally, saying "this was nothing to do with the UKIP grassroots members and local councillors who have worked hard for their communities. What I take issue with is the structure of the UKIP party above council level. There seemed to be a void with no cohesion, no strategic vision, no aims or goals other than Brexit. With the vote in June this is done, and after winning that battle there is no place at the negotiating table to influence how Brexit will evolve. It is okay to pressurize the government but you need a credible plan moving forward, which I just don't see, and the party is divided on which direction to take."

His statement also highlights his vision for the future, saying: "Attending the local Parish Council meetings, I can see that the same problems exist in every parish: lack of Transport, lack of employment opportunities, road infrastructure, street lighting, youth engagement, presence of the local constabulary. The only way to tackle these issues is by working together, uniting the community and working in collaboration with all organisations. We must put our differences to one side, share resources, experience and best practices, simply get things done and make the community work for everyone."

In order to make the transition, Cllr Tew has given up his chairmanship of the Adult Social Care Committee in line with the structure at County level. He has stated that he intends to stand at the next election, within which boundary changes could lead to his standing against UKIP veteran Cllr Peter Reeve. In 2015, Cllr Tew lost his additional Ramsey seat to Cllr John Palmer in a close fought race.

# WE CAN DO IT!

## Don't fall for the hard sell says Tony Richardson

Easy, quality, reliable. Three words you know are true of Green Stairlifts Ltd after spending just a few minutes with founder Tony Richardson.

Tony left his career as a Technical Surveyor behind for one simple reason: he couldn't stand to see people treated the way the salesmen treated them. Going into business for himself fifteen years ago, he has stood by a simple principle that he holds to this day: no hard sales

"I left because I didn't like their sales practices" says Tony, "My theory has been that I would treat every customer as I would want my own mother to be treated". This principle has led to the founding of Green Stairlifts Ltd, a company that prides itself on the quality of its environmentally-friendly re-conditioned Stannah Stairlifts and its growing list of satisfied customers.

**Its that easy!**

So, what do you need to know about stairlifts? Firstly, that they are a lot easier to fit than you might realise! One of Tony's issues as a surveyor was that most salesmen suck their teeth and make out that your stairs are tough, it's a big job that needs plenty of cash towards it, and most of the time it simply isn't! "Most people think they can't have one and most times you can!", says Tony "It screws down to the wood of the staircase, so there's no damage to the property, and we even can put it on either side of the staircase."

**No sales hassle!**

"I don't even ring people back, I do a quote and I leave it with them" "Most people really like that because if I'm up against the big companies they will be on the phone all the time to people, and I don't bother them at all. They can just give me a ring if they want me to do it.

"Because I respect their personal privacy people like to deal with me! We're a no pressure organisation, whereas if you go to most of the mobility shops or respond to the national ads, your details are sold to the big players and you get all the pushy sales, it's horrible".

**Stay Green!**

Green Stairlifts is appropriately named, and provides perfect commitment to the philosophy behind selling reconditioned machines. "I'm environmentally conscious", explains Tony, "I don't like to see them all going to scrap. With a curved one will have to build a new rail every time but they can use the steel, which is good, and the machines all come out with fresh batteries and are serviced". The reconditioned models are also around 40% cheaper than a new model, and run for just as long, which Tony points out can be a real saving for someone using a pension.

The models also come without the extra cost and hassle that larger companies push their salesmen to achieve, such as extended warranties. "I just won't sell them", says Tony, "All the machines I put in I can easily get parts for and will fix myself, there's just no reason to have one". Tony prides himself on the quality of the Stannah, stating that they very rarely go wrong, and admits to being picky enough that he will only take on the very highest quality of worksmanship.

**A modern company!**

Lastly, Tony is moving with the times, and won't force an in-person visit on his customers by offering a photo valuation service. If you are looking for a quote, you can simply send in digital images of the bottom, middle and top of your stairs, and Tony will work out a price himself, which is then backed up by a full technical survey to ensure the safety and quality of any work.

**Taking pride in the work**

For Tony, great satisfaction comes not from his sales but from his customers, who he can help stay in their homes. "A lot of people have got to the point where they are desperate", he says, "and it's a shame. I always wish people would contact me earlier, because I don't pressure anyone and I will always go and see them, even offer some advice, and won't charge anything"

However, he does admit that it's a tough business at times. "No-body buys a stairlift because they fancy one, and a lot of people put it off because it's too late and perhaps they have a fall before its fitted. Its mentally tricky". In order to combat this, he offers this advice to all potential customers - "As soon as you feel uncomfortable or unsafe on your stairs, give us a call, because we can take the danger out."

It's easier than you think, you won't be hassled and you can get and simple quote with just a phone call. Even if you are just trying to weigh up your options, Tony can put your mind at ease and always tells it like it is. So why not give him a call? Check the advert for all the details!

# Don't believe it?

## Listen to his customers!

I had my stairlift arranged and fitted by Tony Richardson approximately four years ago. I cannot fault all the work he did. He stuck to his original estimate to the letter which was far less than any of the other firms – well known.
The work was executed without fuss and no mess, and within two weeks as arranged. He is excellent. I have recommended him to several people.
***A L G of Huntingdon***

Hello Tony, Lift fitted. Engineer has just left us. An excellent job all round, we are more than happy. Thank you for all your help in organising the job which has gone without a hitch – very rare these days – wouldn't hesitate to recommend.
***Mr and Mrs T. I. Ramsey***

I thank you for the speed and skills which your team demonstrated in respect of the stair lift installation, a vital item for her future life. It was a very smooth and efficient operation. The completed task enables my wife to return home from hospital.
***Mr P W G, St Ives***

Tony at Greenstairlifts has been superb.
We got Stannah, Acorn and Greenstairlifts to tender. We have 90 degree bend which at least doubles price due to more complicated mechanism and Stannah quote was for two options with their twin rail system and option for re-con chair.
Acorn just was a harder sell and prettier single rail but everybody says that they are troublesome and not good value even though cheaper.
Tony at Greenstairlifts was an absolute gent. Not bothered about big deposits, no hard sell, and 50% of Stannah price and re-con modern Stannah chair and Stannah rails bespoke for our stairs. He came up with solution to avoid front door clash and installed within 2 weeks. I'd go as far as saying don't bother with the rest just get Tony to install a Stannah type system. Kids are just testing it for my dad now.
***Mr AS of Stewartby, Bedfordshire***

On behalf of my Mum, can I thank you for the courteous and efficient service we have received with regards to her stairlift installation. It is moving perfectly!
***Ms H, Cambridge***


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## Ramsey WI

Ramsey WI does not hold a meeting in August but we still meet up and go out and about, a trip to Twin Tarns an NGS garden in Somersham and then to Bramble Lodge to visit the Alpacas. Not forgetting the bowling evening at Lakeside, Pidley, Ramsey WI invited Audley End WI, a great time was had by all. An outing to Foxton Locks is planned for 16th September, a gentle stroll and lunch at the pub.

For our September meeting, at very short notice, Mr Neil Callan came to talk to us about "The Development of the English Spoon (how and why spoons have changed throughout the ages)"

He started with a bit of a history lesson about Sheffield plate. The method itself was invented by a Sheffield Cutler named Thomas Boulsover in 1742. By a happy accident, Boulsover discovered that applying sufficient heat to contacting silver and copper the two metals fused.

We learnt that the name Stirling silver comes from the Easterlings who travelled, from the area now known as Germany, to England to make silver items in the 13th century. Did you know that 925 sterling silver jewellery consists of 92.5 percent pure silver and the rest is some kind of alloy, typically copper? Or that during The English Civil War (1642-1645) silver items usually found on the sideboard were melted down and turned into coins to pay the troops and at the end of this period made back into the silver to sit on the sideboard? Anyone have a full set of apostle spoons, I thought he was talking about those six small spoons we used to eat our boiled eggs with when we were children, but no, a full set of 13 spoons, twelve apostle and one of Jesus could be worth a fortune. In all a very interesting and informative evening.

The Chat and Craft group will meet on 20th September from 2pm to 4.

The Book Group are reading Dictator by Robert Harris, which tells the story of the final fifteen years in the life of the Roman statesman Cicero in the form of a biograph written by his secretary Tiro.

The Drama Group are busy rehearsing for their performances in December.

The Ramsey WI meets the second Monday of the month at Ramsey Community Centre on stocking Fen Road; we start our meetings at 7.30. Why not come along and see if the WI is for you, we'll have the tea and biscuits ready.

## Ramsey St Mary's WI

The beginning of September saw members and friends pack into both Ramsey Community Buses to make the journey to the once top secret base of British code breakers Bletchley Park. This fascinating venue has been expertly transformed into a welcoming visitor destination which provided us all with an educational and enjoyable day out.

Ramsey St. Mary's WI are also doing their bit to raise funds for Denman (the WI College near Oxford). WI members in the 1940's raised funds to buy the college to enable women to learn new skills. Denman continues to be the home of WI learning and offers hundreds of different craft, cookery and lifestyle courses every year to members and non-members alike. However, the historic buildings require constant maintenance and a fund has been established with the aim of raising £2million. 'Wash-Up for Denman' was the brainchild of member Debs Corney. Donated hand-knitted dishcloths, washing up liquid and a pan scrubber were parceled up and sold and will be added to our donation to the Denman Appeal.

Our September meeting included our traditional Harvest Supper. Members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal whilst their brains were taxed with a quiz. Next month will be Ian Limmer from Beal's Roses – we'd love to see you

## Warboys WI

The highlight of our July meeting was the talk and demonstration given by Jenny Lewin on Ribbon Embroidery. Members were very pleased with their own efforts and achieved good results using a circular frame, ribbons and silk thread. Later in the month one our members, Wendy Taylor, gave a garden party. The food, weather and company helped to create a lovely event. A fiendish quiz spaced around the beautiful garden kept us all busy. We were also busy later in July at the Sports field running a £1 Stall to raise funds for Denman College.

In August our Annual Outing was to Stratford upon Avon organised by Gill Skillings and a great day out was had by all.

In September we heard about the Pathfinder Squadron presented by Tim Dutton. This is a topic of local relevance since they were stationed in Warboys during the last war. We have Dr. Maureen James visiting us in October to speak about the Pankhurst Family.

**For more information about the WI or find details about a WI near you visit: www.thewi.org**

| WI | Time & Date | Location |
|---|---|---|
| Ramsey Abbey | 2pm – 1st Thursday | Bury Village Hall |
| Holme | 7.30pm – 1st Thursday | Holme Village Hall |
| Ramsey | 7.30pm – 2nd Monday | Ramsey Community Centre |
| Ramsey St. Mary's | 7.30pm – 3rd Wednesday | The Barn, Ashbeach School |
| Warboys | 7.15pm – 2nd Wednesday | Warboys Parish Centre |
| Wistow | 7.30pm – 2nd Wednesday | Wistow Village Hall |

# Food for Thought

Back in July we reported that one of this year's WI resolutions was to challenge supermarkets to reduce their food waste and to redistribute any to organisations that help those who find themselves in a state of food poverty.

The WI's link to the prevention of food waste goes way back. In fact, the WI in England and Wales was formed during the First World War to encourage countrywomen to get involved in growing and preserving food to help to increase the supply of food to the war-torn nation. In 1940 the Ministry of Food allocated sugar to the NFWI to be distributed to WI Preservation Centres in order to make jam and can produce which would otherwise go to waste. All the produce then went into the nation's food supply.

## So what now?

The Wi is calling for three main issues to be addressed.

- An enhanced voluntary framework: The WI believes that existing voluntary agreements have the potential to go much further. The WI would like to see supermarkets committing to a range of measures that go above and beyond their current voluntary obligations, such as greater transparency in publicising their food waste statistics and an end to practices that contribute to food waste up and down the food chain, including appearance guidelines on fruit and veg.
- Food to be used to feed people: The WI is concerned that at present only 18% of food surplus fit for human consumption is redistributed to food charities, with the majority of the remainder being used for energy production. The WI believes that all good food should be redistributed for human consumption where possible.
- The root of food poverty to be addressed: The WI is calling for an end to hunger in the UK. Whilst emergency food aid such as food banks play an important role in helping alleviate the hardship of those in need, it is widely accepted that they do not address the underlying causes of food poverty or present a long term solution. The WI wants to see action at all levels to address both the causes and impacts of food poverty and will be exploring this issue.

Only a small percentage of food waste happens at supermarket level, however successive reports have found that supermarket practices are having an impact on the amount of food that is wasted up and down the supply chain. As a first step, the WI wants retailers do more to help reduce food waste both in the home and at producer level. The WI is conducting a member survey and supermarket investigation to gain a better picture of the extent to which supermarkets are promoting these practices and their effect on food waste in WI members' homes.

Individually WIs will be thinking about how they can support this campaign. Regionally, in the Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation which includes WIs in this area, we are very pleased have been approached by Metal Peterborough. Our link to Metal started last year during the WI Centenary celebrations when some of us took part in the award winning Harvest Festival, including a meal for 500 in Cathedral Square, which happened to coincide with our anniversary week. Now a new exhibition at Peterborough City Gallery called 'Lucy + Jorge Orta: Food' draws together archival work alongside new sculpture and drawings inspired by this meal. Of particular interest elements of the exhibition touch on the theme of food waste and food distribution.

Alongside the show is a programme of activities and events in which the WI have been invited to participate. On Saturday 17th September Anna Bradley-Dorman (Ramsey St. Mary's WI) and Jane Sills (Ramsey WI) had a stand promoting the WIs long history of using up excess produce by pickling and preserving. An original WWII Canning machine and preserves to taste - made by WI members or volunteers from Ramsey Walled Kitchen Garden - led to many interesting conversations with visitors to the museum and those taking part in a bread making workshop. 'Get Set Cook' Food Waste is also to be held on Saturday 15th October at Peterborough City Gallery. WI members, including Abbey WI President Karen Prestage, will be teaming up with Food Cycle to present a cooking competition that will demonstrate what can be cooked with supermarket waste. Food Cycle is a national charity based on the simple idea that food waste and food poverty should not coexist. It combines volunteers, surplus food and spare kitchen spaces to create tasty, nutritious meals for people at risk of food poverty and social isolation.

To find out more about the events and exhibition or to book your free tickets visit Metal at http://bit.ly/2dfCdfx

HOLIDAYS + TRAVEL

# CUBA

## Expect the unexpected!

Planning on visiting Cuba, well then you are in for a real treat. Cuba is a fascinating country and different from other Caribbean islands you have visited.

A country trapped in a time warp and reeling from an economic embargo that has lasted for over 50 years. Cuba will seduce you with its elegant Spanish colonial architecture, musical melodies, cocktail culture, stunning beaches and friendly locals. For great beaches go to the beach resorts of Varadero, Guardalavaca and the Cayos. The atmosphere and architecture is particularly stirring in the Unesco-listed cities of Havana, Trinidad, Cienfuegos and Camagüey. Here you will see grandiose buildings and cobbled squares of a time gone by.

Cuba is fringed by palm trees and blue seas, there are over 200 bays and 250 beaches for you to explore. There are tobacco plantations and factories, lush sugarcane fields, mountains, colourful birds, flowers and waterfalls to see, and in the towns you will see plenty of 50's cars. The capital, Havana is the place to find the real Cuba, drink rum cocktails, smoke world-class cigars and watch whirls of rumba, or just sit at a local bar and take it all in. Cubans like to dress up, so take some nice clothes and go out for the evening. Be adventurous and try some dance lessons, the Cubans know how to move. Tipping is expected, make sure you take plenty of change out with you. There's plenty to photograph, but it is illegal to take a photo of military, police or airport personnel.

You will need a Tourist Card/Visa to gain entry into Cuba. Some operators include this in with your holiday cost and some don't, you will need to check with your Travel Agent.

The climate makes visiting Cuba a very pleasant holiday destination any time. The months June–Nov can be very hot and humid both day and night. From Nov-Dec onwards the humidity drops. May-June it begins to rise again. May also brings the start of the rainy and the hurricane season, which goes through to November.

Cuba operates a two currency system. The CUC (Cuban Convertible Peso) which is the Tourist Currency, which will have a picture of well known monuments on and is worth around 24 times the value of the CUP (Cuban Peso) which is the local currency, which has of pictures of local heroes. It's a closed currency, so you will need to get this once

you arrive. The exchange rate is the same everywhere and so you don't have to shop around, you will find it is easiest to change at your hotel. The US dollar is not accepted.

Cuba is among the most poorly connected countries in the world, with severe restrictions on who and where gets internet access, and the connection speeds are very slow. Batteries are expensive and hard to get, so make sure you have plenty of spares.

Bring your suncream and after-sun with you, it's hot and these are expensive. Medication is not widely available, so be sure to take enough of your prescription medications for the whole of your trip, take a doctors note or copy of prescription with you. You will also need to ensure you take general first-aid with you – pain killers, plasters, etc, as these are both costly and difficult to get hold of. Cuba has a zero tolerance on drugs, sniffer dogs are present in the airport and freely sniff your luggage.

With an unprecedented numbers of people now visiting Cuba, hotels can get booked up quite far in advance. We highly recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment. Prices are also beginning to reflect the fact that demand for accommodation on the island is starting to outstrip supply, and due to the undeveloped infrastructure the standards of accommodation are not always up to the standard you might expect elsewhere in the Caribbean.

If you have any items of toiletries or clothes you don't want at the end of your holiday, why not leave them for the staff. Some of the items are difficult for them to get hold of and they will really appreciate these and you won't have to carry them back.

Interested in visiting Cuba? contact Not Just Travel Anglia for more information


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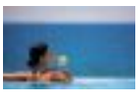

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# RAMSEY ROTARY NEWS

## Ceilidh Dance

The dance held in the Drill Hall at the 40's camp last month where 117 enthusiastic dancers enjoyed the music. The event raised £724 towards Rotary charities and £218 from the raffle for Macmillan.

*Enthusiastic audience at last years concert*

## Last Night of the Proms

The RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band will once again be performing at the Ramsey Abbey College South Hall on Saturday 8th October at 7.30pm.
Tickets are £8.00 and available from Ramsey Rotarians, School Plus and Michael Collins Butchers (Great Whyte)

## Best ever placing in Dragon Boat Race

*Ramsey boat crew dig in*

The Ramsey Rotary Club became the highest placed Rotary team ever when it entered the Nene Valley Dragon Boat Race in September. The event organised by the East Northants Rotary Clubs is open to other Rotary Clubs, businesses and organisations to raise money for charity. This year there were 38 entries who each pay £350 to hire a Dragon Boat.
It was said that Ramsey were only beaten by one hundredth of a second! Who was timing?
The Ramsey team was made up of members Rotary supporters and friends. Well done the team.

## David Coulthard watch winner

The dance held in the Drill Hall at the 40's camp last month where 117 enthusiastic dancers enjoyed the music. The event raised £724 towards Rotary charities and £218 from the raffle for Macmillan.

*Roger with TRH's The Prince and Princess of Wales at Windsor great park 1982*

E R

The Master of the Household
has received Her Majesty's command to invite

to a Dance to be given at Windsor Castle
by The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh
on Tuesday, 22nd December, 1987, at 8.30 p.m.

*Invitation from HM The Queen to a Christmas Dance at Windsor castle 1987*

Inspector Reg Reynolds
dinner
Saturday
14th May

*Dinner Invitation from Mr Andrew Palmer, The British Ambassador to The Holy See in Rome 1994*

*Signed photograph from TRH's The Duke and Duchess of Kent, on the occasion of Roger's retirement. 'With our deep gratitude and affection and best wishes'*

## A policeman's lot can be a happy one

It is customary for new Ramsey Rotary Club members to give a short presentation of their working life and experiences. Last month the club had a bit of a surprise when ex Police Inspector Roger Reynolds let us into his secret past as a Royal Protection Officer.
Roger started his humble working life as a delivery boy for a local baker in Grays, Essex. As soon as he was old enough, he applied for a driving licence, and learned to drive a three wheeler electric delivery van, in which he passed his driving test. Roger joined the Merchant Navy as a steward on the SS Canberra cruise ship - an opportunity to see the world.
At the age of 19 Roger joined the Police Force in Essex. He later transferred to the Metropolitan Police, where he served as a constable at Bethnal Green and a sergeant at East Ham.
Never letting the grass grow under his feet Roger applied for and was selected to train as a Royal Protection Officer, the training was tough, much being conducted by the SAS.
For the next two years, Roger was part of a team of officers working on various Royal duties. In 1982, he was promoted to Inspector and found himself serving as the Personal Protection Officer to Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, a roll he continued until his retirement in 1997. Due to a misunderstanding Roger was always called Reg by the Royal Household.
Roger's passion over the years had been the restoration of vintage cars. With the Duke of Kent he found a fellow enthusiast and on various tours of duty had the opportunity to see extraordinary restored vehicles of all ages and manufacture.
In 1993, Roger was awarded Membership of Victorian Order (MVO) for his service to the Royal Family.

# Help and Advice from Cromwell Vets

## Remember, remember your pets this November!

**Imagine you snuggled up for the night at home, then BANG! It comes from nowhere. BANG! The room flashes. Where's it coming from? Another room might be safe. BANG! It's here too! You're scared, you're confused. BANG! Run to find the family just to be told, 'get down'. BANG, FLASH! It's everywhere! None of your usual places are safe but you find something to hide underneath and cower low to the floor, hoping that whatever it is won't hurt you.**

This is the experience many pets have this time of year – firework season. The bangs and crackles of the displays can be bewildering and terrifying for animals. There are many ways pets show they are stressed:

- **Trembling and shaking**
- **Toileting in the house**
- **Inter-animal tension**
- **Excessive vocalisation**
- **Pacing and panting**
- **Refusing to eat**
- **Hiding**
- **Clinging to owner**

A staggering 80% of pet owners have a pet who is scared this time of year with dogs far more likely to suffer. Fireworks are no longer restricted to a few nights a year, instead displays are held at any time over the winter season. Sound phobias in dogs can spiral downwards and with no let up, some animals struggle to cope and can take months to get back to their normal selves.

### Preparation is key

Managing an animal with sound phobia can be challenging and can be approached with 3 methods; specialist products, behavioural preparation and with common sense.

**Specialist products** – pheromone diffusers and natural ingredients in a capsule designed to help to calm the animal. These products are most effective when given for at least a month before the fireworks start. For extreme cases a Vet may prescribe a sedative for the safety of the animal and their owner.

**Behavioural preparation** – firework fear doesn't just go away on its own, in fact it's likely to get worse. For the long term, behavioural therapy is recommended.

**Common sense** – there are lots of little things you can do while fireworks are going off to help your pet cope:

- Keep them indoors after dark
- Provide them with a den in their favourite place in the house
- Ignore fearful behaviour, stay calm and don't get angry – it might sound counter-intuitive but comforting a fearful animal only confirms to them that there's something to be afraid of.
- Muffle the sound – shut the windows, doors and curtains and turn up the TV or radio.
- Provide distraction – perhaps a new toy or chew.

**If you need any advice on how to prepare your pet for the fireworks season and how to help them through it, book a FREE appointment with our Nurses by calling 01487 814789**

Cromwell Vets
Over 100 years of care

"The most fantastic vets I have ever dealt with. I would trust no-one else with my dogs. Genuine people with hearts of gold!" Linda on facebook

We're one of the very few privately owned Vets in the area & we've been looking after the pets of Huntingdonshire for over 100 years. Our surgeries are open 6 days a week for veterinary consultations, nurse clinics & we have the facilities on site for day patients operations & dental procedures at all of our surgeries. Our experienced staff are supported by our Veterinary Hospital in Huntingdon. You can rest assured that, day or night, your pet will be monitored & cared for as if they were one of our own.

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01487 814789
Mon-Fri: 9am - 6pm,
Wed LATE NIGHT until 8.30pm
Sat: 9am - 12.30pm

56 Green End Road, Sawtry, Cambs PE28 5UY
01487 800199
Mon-Fri: 9am - 6pm
Sat: 9am - 12.30pm

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(36 St Johns Street, PE29 3DG)

Branch surgeries also in
**St Neots** (01480 216612),
**Cambourne** (01954 715161)
& **St Ives** (01480 300389)

★★★★★ 4.8/5 Facebook review
★★★★★ Google rating

24hr Emergency Service 01480 52222
Based at our RCVS approved hospital in Huntingdon
www.cromwellvets.co.uk

# GRANTS AVAILABLE...

Grant Pots have been a particular success of the Ramsey Million project. We have already distributed around £60,000 to over 30 different organisations that are working in and around Ramsey Parish. As part of our next year's programme, Ramsey Million Partnership will be launching two new grant programmes. We have changed the application process and criteria for the next round of grants but, as previously, these will be for voluntary or community groups to bid for and must benefit the residents of Ramsey and the surrounding Ramsey villages. There will be a launch event to explain how the new process works on Monday 7th November, 6pm, Ramsey Community Centre (more details to follow – keep an eye on our Facebook, Twitter & website) at which forms will be available with the deadline for applications being 31st January.

Our two main grant programmes will be targeted to cover the main themes of:

- Transport and access
- Projects which help different generations to work together or learn from each other.

These themes have been prioritised as they are areas which were raised in our consultations but have not received much funding to date. We are looking to you to for new ideas to help in these areas. For each theme we could fund one large project or several smaller projects depending on the quality of the applications received.

We will also have a small fund for micro-grants of up to £100 which are designed to help those groups that have no funding should they have a sudden need for resources. Forms will also be available from early November, but this fund will be open all year round (or until the budget is spent).

## Fancy Yourself as a Social Entrepreneur?

Do you have a good idea for a business which has a social benefit or can help the Ramsey community? Ramsey Million is dedicated to enabling local people to get back into employment. We are working with UnLtd* to help social entrepreneurs get started. UnLtd* offers a great deal of help and support with their Star People award programme. UnLtd* is a national organisation which supports social entrepreneurs and helps them grow their businesses. Ramsey has been selected as one of the few Big Local areas they will work with intensively over the next year. So if you want to improve our area, and you know your community, the challenges and opportunities it faces and you want to gain skills and experience for yourself the Star People programme may well be for you.

## The programme offers three levels of award:

- Try It Awards - Offers small amounts of funding of up to £500 for individuals to try out their ideas to improve their local area. This might mean learning more about what is needed in the area or trying the project on a small scale.
- Do It Awards - Are up to £5,000 with an average award size of £2,500. Star People who have completed Try It Awards may now feel confident enough to be able to develop their project. Other people may come straight in at this level as they demonstrate they have the energy and skills to take forward an idea that has some project planning already in place.
- Build It Awards - In exceptional cases we will offer up to £15,000 of funding to individuals who have an established social venture or community project or who have the potential to develop rapidly.

UnLtd* not only offer financial support but work with local businesses and networking groups to ensure potential social entrepreneurs have all the business support they need. Having a great idea is only the start and UnLtd* will be with you all the way.

On Thursday 22nd September Ramsey Million and UnLtd* held an event called 'The Sky is the Limit' in the wonderful new club house at The Old Nene Golf & Country Club. Chris Shutt from UnLtd* outlined the support available and some of our local Star People explained how UnLtd* has helped them. These included Maurice Kendrick with the Ramsey and Warboys Reporter, Michael Muir from the Nene Valley Gliding Club and Ian and Lauren from Down2Earth (Whitehouse Farm) farm shop out on the Benwick Road. It was truly inspirational to hear how the funding from UnLtd* has not only enabled them to start up successful businesses and projects but also the impact these have had on our community and for local people. Local businesses and agencies who can offer business support and advice were also on hand to offer their services to potential new businesses.

But don't worry if you didn't manage to get along to the event. Information about UnLtd* is available from www.unltd.org.uk or by contacting Ramsey Million – details here...

*Presentation from Chris Shutt - UnLtd**

*Presentation from Lauren Musk - Down2Earth*

Ramsey Million: The Neighbourhood Office, 25 Great Whyte, PE26 1HG

TeL: 01487 814897 or Email: ramseymillion@gmail.com or office.ramseymillion.com
Facebook: Ramsey Million Twitter: @RamseyMillionBL
**Website: www.ramseymillion.org**
**For Big Local : www.localtrust.org.uk**

# YOUR WEEKEND VENUE

Pick your tunes from the juke box or have a few games of pool.

## HALLOWEEN DISCO 29TH OCTOBER

## HAPPY HOUR
12 – 3pm Monday to Friday

£3 a Pint or glass of wine (175ml) or any spirit and mixer

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Families Welcome
Like us on Facebook

- Free Wi-Fi
- Pool Table
- Darts
- Disco
- Karaoke

# NEW MENU at the Mad Cat

*All your favourites and more . . .*

NEW **Oven Baked Nachos or Fresh Fajitas** Served on a sizzling platter

*Large variety of vegetarian and vegan dishes, including:*

NEW **Mushroom and Halloumi Burger**
Served in a brioche bun with real ale and apple or caramelised onion chutney, with chunky chips and salad – suitable for vegetarians

NEW **Chinese Tofu Stir-fry**
Served with rice noodles and pitta bread – suitable for vegans

# CHRISTMAS at the Mad Cat

Very limited space for Christmas Day dinner, so book now to avoid disappointment.
Don't forget – If you do miss out with family and friends, you can still book for our Boxing Day Carvery **£14.95 - Carvery and Dessert**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY MENU**
**3 Courses, Tea or Coffee and Mince pies £16.95**
Warm yourself next to our real open fires in the bar and restaurant

## MONDAY LUNCHTIME SPECIAL
**Between 12 noon and 2.30pm**
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# Ramsey library

Friends of Ramsey Library

RAM JAM BOOK FESTIVAL

## Fun, free and local

Just a short time now until the Ram Jam Children's Book Festival at Ramsey Library, with fun events for children aged 4-11. All the sessions on Saturday 29th October and Sunday 30th October are free, but numbers are limited and an adult must stay with the children during the events. Tickets need to be obtained in advance from the library and these will be available from Tuesday, 11th October during normal library opening hours. These are Tuesday and Thursday 10-5, Wednesday 4-7, Friday and Saturday 10-1.

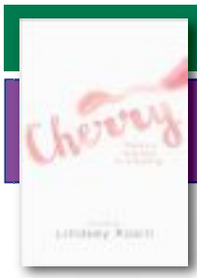
### Now you know the dates and times, who can you see and what can you do?

On Saturday 29th October from 10.00 – 11.00, Marian Savill will be doing drop-in arts and crafts for ages 5+, based on "Handa's Hen" by Eileen Browne. This is a good opportunity for adults to pick up some tips for doing collage at home. From 10.30 – 11.30 Alison Limentani will be talking about her amazing book "How Much Does a Ladybird Weigh?" and leading an art and craft workshop for ages 5+. At 12 – 12.45 award-winning illustrator Matty Long will be talking about his "Super Happy Magic Forest" books and showing you how to draw the characters, for ages 6+. Then from 2.00 - 3.00, Lion Learners will be reading some brilliant stories about spiders, snakes and lizards and introducing you to the real thing, for ages 5+. Multi-award winning author/illustrator Steve Smallman returns to Ram Jam with two sessions of hilarious stories and quick-fire sketches for ages 6+. These are at 2.00 - 2.45 and 3.15 – 4.00.

After a good night's sleep you can come back on Sunday 30th October to meet more great people. From 10.30 – 12 noon join author/illustrators Trudi Esberger and Carolina Rabei for stories and amazing crafts. This is a drop–in session for ages 4+, with no tickets required. At the same time, 10.30 – 12 noon, Irina Richards, manga and comic book illustrator will be showing you how to draw comic book characters and how to create a comic strip. This is for ages 8+. Finally, from 2.00 – 3.00pm James Nicol will be talking about his outstanding debut novel "The Apprentice Witch", also for ages 8+.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity for your children to see and hear published authors and illustrators. Remember all events are free and you don't need to be a member of the library to attend, just remember to go and collect some tickets. See you there.

## BOOK REVIEW




### CHERRY

**by Lindsey Rosin**

Okay so I can't explain why I wanted to read this book but and I'm so happy I did!! It sat on my book shelf nagging, like a little kid seeking attention, until I just HAD to read it. I was worried that it would be a sugar coated representation of high school but it turned out to be quite an honest account of a girl's journey into adulthood and what many go through emotionally before, during and after we 'pop our cherry' – hence the title.

Before I go any further I need to emphasise that the content of this book is not suitable for younger YA (Young Adult) fans and the publisher recommends readers to be aged 14+. Cherry is a story about 4 friends, Layla, Zoe, Emma and Alex, on the lead up to their high school graduation. They have the normal everyday things to deal with like family, friends, classes and actually making it to graduation but in addition to this Layla decides they also need to loose their virginities. Throughout the book you follow all four girls as the make their way through the last few terms of high school and try to loose their V-cards at the same time... and in the form of a sex pact no less!

I think the reason I loved this book was because of the characters. I found all of the girls relatable in one way or another and it made me care about what happened to each of them. It is so easy for a YA novel that is based around sex to come across contrite or become more adult than YA but with Cherry, as much as sex plays a big part in the story, the actual book is more to do with the girls becoming women. It becomes a story of four girls finding out who they are and figuring out what they want from themselves as well as a relationship.

I think the only real flaw I found was its predictability. However, in an odd way I think it made it more relatable because the story lines were realistic. I think most people who dated throughout high school and their early twenties will connect to one part or another.

Overall I really enjoyed this book and I didn't put it down. It is honest, it is real, it is funny and sad and all in all it is an enjoyable and easy read.

*Emily Bradley-Dorman*

# RAMSEY WALLED GARDEN

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## MARROW TART (Dessert)

**A tasty pudding to use a marrow. Some courgettes always get away!**

SERVES 4

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED

20cm (8") flan dish or pie dish
Short crust pastry (you can use bought pastry)
175 gm (6oz) plain flour)
85 gm (3oz) butter or block margarine

300 gms (10oz) of peeled and cored marrow
90gm (3ozs) of sultanas
Sugar to sweeten
Nutmeg or Cinnamon to taste

### METHOD

1. Peel and core the marrow and stew in a small amount of water until soft and can be mashed with a fork.
2. Remove from the heat and add sultanas and allow to get cold, this allows the sultanas to absorb the moisture.
3. Sweeten to taste.
4. Make the pastry by putting the flour in a bowl. Add the margarine or butter and rub in gently with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add about 3 tablespoons cold water until the pastry comes together in a ball. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface and use it to line a 20cm (8in) loose-bottomed flan tin
5. Chill in the fridge for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 220°C (fan 200°C/425°F/Gas 7). Blind bake the pastry case for 15-20 minutes. You can omit the baking blind but you may get a "soggy bottom".
6. Fill pastry lined dish with marrow mixture and sprinkle with nutmeg or cinnamon.
7. Bake in a preheated oven at 220oC or gas mark 7 for approximately 30 minutes or until pastry is cooked and the filling is firm to the touch.

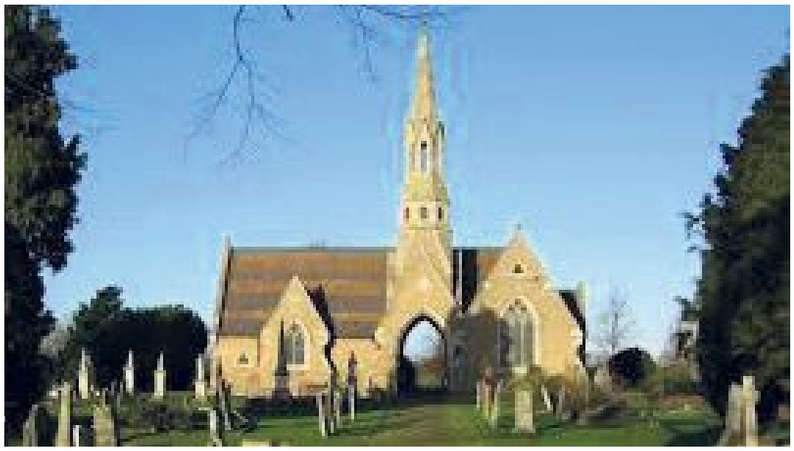
## HAVE YOU TRIED MAKING ONE OF OUR RECIPES?

If you have, we'd like to know your thoughts!

**Please contact us**
**mail@ramseyandwarboysreporter.co.uk**

# REMEMBERING RAMSEY

*By Enid Hubbard - Family History group Member, Ramsey and District U3A*



Ramsey is the gateway to the fens and because of the Abbey has been a prosperous town for centuries. In the early days the town supported agriculture but gradually, as the town grew, so did the occupations of shopkeepers and skilled men who could supply, repair and make machinery for the farms. Their families stayed in Ramsey for generations but their stories have been lost in the mists of time.

Three months ago the Ramsey and District U3A joined forces with the Friends of the Mortuary Chapel to research names from the cemetery. I believe there are about 7,000 names inscribed on headstones, kerbs, pillars and tombs and the research is called the 'Not Forgotten' project. Members of the U3A Family History group have already researched more than 100 names to date.

### Private school

Did you know that the building that houses The Milk Shake Junction was once a private school with Miss Mary Cattling as Principal and her sister, Elizabeth, as music teacher?

That Andrew Newton who moved to Ramsey in 1821 and who died in 1865 was a gentleman farmer who left a fortune worth £600,000 today. His family benefited through the ages and his great niece Rebecca Newton was still able to live comfortably from his inheritances until her death in the 1927.

The completed research is available to read at the Mortuary Chapel so if your family have lived in the town for a long time why not go along and see if you can find details of their lives, marriages, occupations and children.

The Mortuary Chapel in Wood Lane, Ramsey has one more open day this year 2nd October from 1:00 – 5:00pm when they will be showcasing an exhibition commemorating the men of Ramsey & surrounding villages who died on the Somme between July-November 1916.

### The Lost Generation

As well as helping the 'Not Forgotten' project members of the Ramsey and District U3A, Family History group have spent his year writing about 'The Lost Generation' for their annual project. Who are the Lost Generation? We are because we no longer write letters or even keep photos. The technological advances that are invaluable to modern living are often just messages or tweets that are deleted at the touch of a button or stored in a 'cloud'. As a group we determined to leave something more permanent so we have been writing about our own lives as stories or biographies so that our families will have a record of our generation. So far we have laughed, nodded our appreciation, cried and applauded the memories that members have had the courage to write down. It has not always been easy but I know that our grandchildren and their children will be enthralled with stories from the Lost Generation.

Family History is not just looking back but also helps us to preserve present history. If you would like to join us and discover your past please log onto ww.ramseyu3a.org.uk and follow the links to Family History.

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# It's not just vegetables at Bury show!

Bury Garden and Produce Show celebrated its 30th anniversary on the 10th of September with a programme of events which included cream teas, a raffle and over 100 individual awards for category winners.

Not just your usual produce show, Bury Village Hall opened its doors at 8:30 that morning for what Julia Hayes, secretary of the show committee, described as "whatever [entrants] want to bring", with each entry costing just 25p, or free for youngsters. Over 75 different categories were judged, with vegetables, photos, projects, cakes, jams and everything in between on display.

All of these competed not only for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category, but also for a number of special awards and best in show trophies. "We do have quite a selection of trophies that have been given to us over the years that have been given to us over the years by different clubs and companies locally", said Julia, "and we auction off anything people will let us keep". The unique prize system where winners receive just £1.50 for first place, 75p for second and 50p for third keeps things fun and leads to plenty of winners, with at least one resident walking away with over 15 prizes.

Judge of the Horticultural categories this year was George Muford, a professionally trained and fully qualified horticulturist. Over the years George has worked at numerous prestigious establishments including the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and Burghley House & Gardens in Lincolnshire. Local schoolchildren also submitted projects.

Overall the show was extremely well attended

# What is a Neighborhood Plan?

A Neighborhood Plan is a plan for a neighborhood area, in this case that of Bury Parish, which includes policies and ideas that become part of the HDC local plan and have to be taken into account by the planners.

The Neighborhood Plan gives a community direct power to develop a shared vision for our neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of our Parish. It also has a unique impact on planning law, providing influence over planning decisions and giving the opportunity to specify sites for development. The process can also identify non-planning desires and objectives that are taken forward by the community.

Question is, what will it accomplish? We spoke to Lisa Schiavo, Vice Chair of the Neigbourhood Plan Committee, about how the process will affect the community, and what the plan means to her and the committee.

For Lisa, the plan allows Bury to have a say in its own future, giving the parish council more power to enact the will of their parishioners into the future. "Bury village is a very small, very unique village", said Lisa, "and we wanted to retain some of its unique characteristics while asking all the residents what they wanted for the next 20 years."

However, the process begins with the public themselves. For months, the committee has been reaching out to the residents of Bury with questionnaires and attending local events including the Carnival and the Vegetable Show. So far, this seems to have been accepted by the community, as Lisa commented that "We've had some good responses and we're very pleased with how the plan is going", although she did admit outreach was a tough task: "It is difficult which is why we've made sure that the people on the neighborhood plan are quite diverse, we have people of all ages and all backgrounds so that we can get a bit more of a view from everyone's perspective."

Lastly, the elephant in the room – Ramsey. Are the committee concerned about its encroaching on Bury, or being swallowed up as Ramsey expands? "That is what we're trying to avoid", Lisa assures us, "By doing this neighborhood plan we are trying to retain bury as Bury Village. Obviously, we do know we are a part of Ramsey and Huntingdonshire, and we do appetite we have got Ramsey around the corner for all our amenities and shopping, but we are trying to make sure that Bury stays as Bury."

# Bury Parish Council report

**By Peter Hazell,** *Chairman*

September's meeting was attended by all Parish Councillors, both District Councillors and seven members of the public.

RAF Upwood is still causing concern as young people continue to enter the site at weekends and in the evenings. They enter by creating gaps in the fencing but don't close the gaps when they leave which is creating a new problem in that pigs, which are kept on the site by a local farmer, get out and on to the Upwood Road and into people's gardens.

A meeting was called in August by the Police with representatives from Strawsons (owners of the site), Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue, District Council and Parish Council to discuss the problem. It was agreed that once planning permission had been given for demolition the problem of the trespassing would be removed.

It is hoped that such permission will be granted soon.

Litter on the playing fields is a continuing problem even though there are sufficient waste bins, and a large knife was found by a Councillor in one of the bins in the children's play area. The police have been notified.

Traffic calming in Owls End and parking restrictions in Grenfell Road should be completed soon.

Speedwatch is up and running and there have been several cars caught exceeding the30 mph limit. One at 49mph in the Upwood road, and one in the High St. at 50mph. People living in both roads will confirm that speeding by many vehicles is a constant problem and danger. Speedwatch relies on volunteers so if anyone is interested please contact the team<csw.bury@gmail.com>.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday, 5th October at 7.30pm in the village hall.

# It's not flying, its falling with style!

## 19th annual Teddy Bear Freefall braves rain in Pidley

Not even the pouring rain could dampen spirits at the Pidley Mountain Rescue Team's Teddy Bear Freefall, which took place early last month at Rookery Farm in Pidley.

The wet weather forced crowds indoors but there was still plenty to do. The main arena was packed with recipients of the Mountain Rescue Team's donations, including a sail-ability scheme who brought along their own boat! Other stalls included a local young farmer's group, while across the road burgers were served and games were played, including the ever popular splat-a-rat!

The daredevil professional parachuting teddies, sponsored by local companies, were unable to attempt their usual feats of daring-do as rain lead to an aborted take off, but were on hand to be flung by a group of determined children into the ring.

In a classic case of X marks the spot, each bear aimed to land closest to the centre of the arena and scoop top prize. After a tense competition which included some mighty throws from Pidley's younger generation, a final fling landed just short of the mark and claimed victory.

However, the most accurate throw of the afternoon came from a late-entry: The Whittelsey Straw Bear! This unlikely competitor had not been expecting to jump, having been too large to fit through the window of the aircraft, but soared magnificently in the arena to land in the exact centre of the target. An unofficial competitor, the Whittelsey bear may have gone home with the pride of his achievement, while the main prize went to the cuddly bear!

After the final throw, the teddies were rounded up and taken away by an expert team of stretcher bearers consisting of the local Brownies troop, and are said to be recuperating well.

The winning ted was sponsored by Pidley's own David Newmans, the owner Stroud Hill Caravan & Touring Park. David's prize is the opportunity to release the bears from the plane in next year's competition.

Stroud Hill Park later released a statement saying "David has always been an avid and generous supporter of the Pidley Mountain Rescue Team. We look forward to seeing David 'High in the Sky ' next year… although he is afraid of heights!"

The yearly bash is in aid of the Pidley Mountain Rescue Team, the charity which helps improve the quality of life and independence of disabled and disadvantaged people all over Huntingdonshire. The charity provides specialised equipment for disabled children and adults to develop and progress their personal mobility and improve their home-life, while raising awareness of the needs of disabled people.

Newly elected chairperson Katie Renwick thanked all the supporters and attendees of the event, saying "What I would say is that it wouldn't happen without the generosity and the time and the hard work and effort of not only people on the committee but our sponsors, our supporters, the family who own Rookery Farm. And so having been told it has never ever rained before, we're on our nineteenth event and it is raining, but people are still coming and that's thanks to all that hard work and effort!"

## Meet the Bears...

Nine intrepid bears took to the skied (briefly!) at the Freefall – here's who they are and how they got there! Thanks go to the imagination of event compère Dave Bird for the following details.

**Bear 1 – Sergeant Edward Bear:**
A freefall bear instructor in his spare time, Ed originally hails from Clonakilty and both owns and operates the second biggest chain of Kebab shops in southern Ireland. His claim to fame? He was the lead instructor and effects advisor at the 2012 Olympics (for teds, obviously!)

**Bear 2 – Corporal Gary Growler**
Gary came to the UK from Malta to pursue his acting dreams, and is currently touring some of the smaller theatres with an adaptation of the 1980s hit "That's My Boy" with Dean Gafney. He has also enjoyed smaller roles in Eastenders, Casualty and the Bill

**Bear 3 – Corporal Jim Rosvely**
One of the more serious bears in the bunch, Jim comes from Canada and uses his natural French skills as a corporate lawyer and tax adviser to a few bears abroad and back home! Always looking for his next challenge, Jim is one of the keener jumpers in the group.

**Bear 4 – Corporal Lidle Bear**
A lay preacher by trade, Lidle came down from Tewkesbury to be a part of this jump. Alongside his jumping, he also enjoys socializing with friends and recently appeared on the Channel 4 program come dine with me, coming joint 3rd with his menu of Honey and Shrimp Cocktail, Beef and Honey Wellington.

**Bear 5 – C.O Mike Teddy**
The full time commanding officer of the unit, Teddy relocated from south Africa to take over the Pidley based role. An absolute stickler for detail, Mike balances his many media duties with his part time work as a celebrity autobiography ghost writer.

**Bear 6 – Sergeant Jackie Panda**
Despite being named after the rare bear, Jackie is actually the only Scot to make the team this year. While training for the annual event is her passion, she also spends her time as a Honey Fracker, and works as a touring lecturer in several subjects.

**Bear 7 – Deputy C.O Steve Grizzly**
Grizzly by both name and nature, Steve is a natural skydiver and partook in the Red Bull Stratos space dive where Austrian Felix Baumgartner jumped over 39 Kilometers, manning the command module. A pit of a prickly customer, he keeps it professional with the other bears at all times.

**Bear 8 – Corporal Fuzzy Black**
Fuzzy is living the dream, working as a stunt driver in the paradise that is Disney Land Paris. His actual work is a closely guarded secret, but it is believed he has doubled for all manner of famous bears, including Baloo, Fozzy Bear and Yogi Bear!

**Bear 9 – Sergeant Janet Pudsey**
Little is known about the origins of Janet, whose famous surname has caused plenty of gossip amongst her fellow parachutes. All we know for sure is that she graduated at sergeant level, and it is her first jump this year!

# READERS WRITE

## Upwood resident alleges Tesco assault

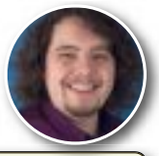
Earlier this month, we reported on an Upwood resident who claims he was "assaulted" by security staff at the Ramsey Branch of Tesco on September 12th after being manhandled while attempting to exit the building.
David Oldale (68) had travelled to the store to return a broken kettle, which staff replaced with a new model, as well as to purchase several household items. Underneath is an article he penned describing the incident.

"As I had a few items to shop for I decided to return a kettle (that was defective) purchased a few months before under guarantee to my local Tesco Store. I produced the kettle at the Customer Services Desk and explained the problem before handing over my purchase receipt. The pleasant young lady at the desk took the items and asked me to select another kettle - which I subsequently did! I proceeded back to customer services whereupon I was given a new receipt. I then continued around the store, selected a few items and proceeded to the checkout and paid for the goods after informing the checkout operator that the kettle was in exchange for a defective item and showed her my new receipt.
Although I had only purchased a few items, all my items including the kettle were placed in a Tesco trolley that I required for support (by virtue of being disabled after suffering a fractured spine in two places received whilst being a professional Fire and Rescue Service Officer some years before) and now awaiting surgery on both knees for joint replacement. After going through the first (of two sets) of store doors I was confronted by a supposed security person screaming and shouting in a foreign language. I told him in no uncertain terms to speak English and proceeded through the second set of doors and out of the store, I had in fact done nothing whatever wrong! My actions however infuriated him even more as he blocked my path to the car park. At no time did he ask me for my store receipts nor tell me exactly what the problem was. I tried to proceed to my vehicle but couldn't as he grasped my trolley (to which I was attached at the other end) and as I mentioned before I needed the trolley for support.
After being dragged back into the store he still continued to shout and scream in a foreign tongue. At this time the young lady from customer services intervened on my behalf stating to the security person that there was no problem as I had paid for all my goods and I had receipts for all. At this point what I took to be two managers intervened, and the security person was dismissed from our group. One of the managers asked the lady from customer services to delete the security tag from the kettle, which incidentally couldn't be done! I left the store shaking and feeling branded like a common criminal with my reputation in tatters as somewhat of a crowd had gathered drawn by the commotion, and as many will know there was me stopped and undoubtedly guilty of being a shoplifter. And I had done nothing whatever wrong. I had been assaulted both physically and verbally but I was perceived as the wrong-doer!
Within an hour I contacted Tesco Head Office to lodge a formal complaint at my treatment. The next day the Tesco's Ramsey store manager telephoned me as she had been instructed by Tesco Head Office to investigate my complaint. Although she informed me that the security firm that was contracted to Tesco's was called 'Total Security' she did not know whether the security officer concerned was licensed (it is now against the law to operate as a security officer in this country without being licensed). After being abused both physically and verbally. Being held against my will. Falsely arrested. All without any evidence whatsoever I was offered a gift voucher to be used in-store for £10! AN INSULT! So think before you shop at Tesco!"

Dear Editor,
In response to the recent devastating earthquake in Central Italy the Rotary Club of Ramsey joined with local groups in collecting for ShelterBox, a UK-based disaster-response charity providing emergency shelters and other support for the families affected. Within just over a week our community raised together almost £700 to help provide urgently needed shelter and relief.
May I through your pages say thank you to all who donated and to the various groups who worked together to bring this about, a very clear demonstration that we are privileged to live in a caring community. Well done Ramsey.
**John O'Reilly**
*Chairman, International Committee*
*The Rotary Club of Ramsey*

Dear Adam
I really object to your article entitled 'Get me to the Church (on time)
It is very kind of the two gentlemen to have tidied up the churchyard, which is a closed churchyard and therefore the responsibility of the Parish Council.
What I object to is the statement that a bride and groom cancelled their wedding because they were unable to walk up the path to the church door, as far as I know this statement is untrue.
St Peter's church is open each day and the pathway to the church door has always been clear and for a number of years wheelchair friendly, there are no steps to manoeuvre
In fact thanks to Peter Hadden for the last few years there are beautiful pots of flowers either side of the path, which have been greatly admired by many visitors and the congregation.
There is a service most Sunday mornings at 9.30am and Morning Prayer is said on Wednesday mornings at 8.30am. Everyone is welcome to any of these services.
I hope that you can put something in your next issue that puts this right. We are proud that our church is open each day and that people can come to look round or seek comfort there and enjoy a service.
Yours truly
**Jean Place**
*(Verger) St Peter's Upwood*

*Do you have anything you would like to say or have any gripes or complaints? Write or email Adam, the Editor at the Reporter.*



Dear Editor,
Further to the meeting of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council on Monday evening, I write with reference to the article on page two of the September edition of the Ramsey and Warboys Reporter, "Get me to the church (on time)!".
Parish Councillors are outraged at this article which is little more than a work of fiction. Your first paragraph which suggests that a wedding booking was cancelled as the bride and groom were unable to walk up the path is a blatant lie.
The parish council is responsible for the maintenance of St. Peter's Churchyard and it takes this responsibility seriously. Our parish maintenance contractor takes a pride in his work and numerous volunteers (in addition to the two you mention in your article) contribute time and energy to the routine maintenance and aesthetic appearance of this historic site.
Your article is not only factually incorrect; it is offensive. I would ask that my letter is published in the next edition of the newspaper together with a public apology. The article is offensive to the Parochial Church Council and the congregation of St. Peter's Church. It is offensive and potentially damaging to the business of our parish maintenance contractor. It is damaging to the reputation of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council; and perhaps most importantly of all, it undermines the efforts of all who have a sense of pride in our community and go that extra mile to ensure that it is well cared for.
The parish council is supportive of your newspaper and the opportunities it provides to share news and to keep people informed. May I suggest in future that you take the time to check your facts with a reliable source before going to print.
Yours sincerely,
**Carol Bilverstone**
*Parish Clerk, Upwood & the Raveleys Parish Council*

Dear Editor
With reference to your article "Housing plans approved by Council".
You stated that Mayor Adela Costello said she was surprised that no-one supporting or opposing this project came to the meeting. As a resident that backs onto these fields and my neighbours, we knew nothing of this meeting until we read your article, so obviously we did no attend.
The original letter proposing the development arrived about the 14th of August the consultation deadline was the 31st of August. I would like to point out that t5he meeting and consultation period was very short and held during school holidays and when most people were on holiday. I think a meeting of such importance to people living in Biggin Lane and backing onto the proposed site so quickly after it was first proposed. I feel arranging in this way leaves me very suspicious of the council findings.
Yours faithfully
**Doug Bart**

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WORDPRESS: https://rwrstories.wordpress.com/

BUSINESS+FINANCE

# Social media at work

Social media at work is a hot topic and it's not going away any time soon. I have dealt with plenty of disciplinaries, grievances and more informal issues involving social media over the last year or two, with more on the horizon.

But issues with employees are rarely isolated, which is all part of the challenge of managing staff! So aside from the more obvious potential issues like reputation damage for the company on social media, confidentiality and security, you are likely to find social media issues cropping up more and more often in more day-to-day issues you come across as an employer. Here are some examples to consider:

Social media and absence

If you have an employee with a sickness absence problem, part of the problem might be you don't think they are always genuinely sick, or that the absence is strictly necessary. So where does social media come into this? Well, some employees will include their manager on their Facebook friends (we don't advise this by the way), and will then be daft enough to post pictures of themselves out having a very heavy night before calling in sick the following morning. Or even if you are not their friend on Facebook, someone at work often is, and you will find you get print-outs and complaints from others who are perhaps aggrieved at their colleague taking unnecessary absence and fed up with picking up the slack. So is it ok to act on information given by others? Yes, as part of an overall context. Don't go using any subterfuge to get access to private social media accounts, but if presented with evidence that someone is doing something wrong at work, you can certainly take that into account, as long as you obviously give the employee reasonable opportunity to explain themselves.

Social media and discipline/grievances

Even if there is a discipline or grievance issue in progress which has nothing to do with social media itself, you may find social media becomes part of the issue at a later point. For example if you're disciplining someone for something and they feel aggrieved about it, they may have a moan on social media, which then brings into play the question of company reputational damage.

Obviously an aggrieved employee is likely to only offer their side of any dispute on social media, and when this is being presented to lots of close friends, there can be a tendency for the issue to become built up even further in the employee's mind, with no stabilising "voice of reason" and lots of outraged posts and encouragement from friends to take things further.

Similarly, friends often post 'helpful' advice about the employee's legal rights in a situation, which is frequently inaccurate and not conducive to settling any dispute in a calm manner quickly. So the flavour of the dispute can change as a result of the involvement of social media.

Social media and employee relationships

Colleagues at work often become "friends" on Facebook or link on other social media networks. This is of course fine, but there are a couple of things to be aware of in these circumstances. Some employees may feel excluded if they are not on social media or are not invited to be friends or link up while others are. Cyber-bullying is also something to be aware of – employees who are not necessarily getting on may act out their dispute outside work and on social media, which has the dual problem of possible corporate reputational damage as well as the potential for bullying claims. If someone feels bullied by a colleague outside of work, it absolutely is your problem, even if no bullying activity is taking place during working hours or in the workplace.

So as well as sorting out a good social media policy and being concerned about protecting your corporate image and confidentiality, be aware of how social media can creep into other employee issues and make sure you are considering that when dealing with those issues at work.

If you are an employer and need help with drafting a social media policy or support with any other HR concern please get in touch
**dawn.cross@face2faceHR**

# Checking The Pulse On Your Business – Are Its Vital Signs Healthy?

A healthy body demands routine checks and examinations. So does a healthy, thriving business. No matter what stage your business is in, to keep it going you must check its systems, pay attention to any ailments and prevent early death.

For the newborn business, the goals and system checks are relatively simple. Merely staying alive and maintaining your sanity is a measure of success at this point in development. Systems are very limited in the start-up stage because there are usually a handful of people (if that) trying to get capital, find more customers and deliver a quality product. Three common causes of mortality at this stage are:

- Atrophy—all capital and funds are dried up
- Neglect—the marketplace does not take to the product or service as well as predicted
- Stress—the business owner cannot take the pressures of running a business anymore and sells the business or closes.

As a business progresses, basic survival is the measure of success. Teetering on the edge of just making enough to survive is hazardous to anyone's health. At this stage, there are still limited systems and employees; there may be a marginal profit; expenses are covered and cash flow can and must be projected. Failure to thrive can be attributed to owner burnout, lack of vision, insufficient funds and marketplace factors.

Too many businesses get stuck in this stage. These are the businesses that are sold at a loss or just close down when the owner has had enough. Every business should strive for optimum health and try to perform like the Olympic athletes we witnessed in Rio last month.

Now is the time to train your business body and make critical decisions. Are you going to go for the gold or are you willing to settle for being a recreational player? If you are reaching for the gold, then you're going to have to train your business, assess the weaknesses and attack them rigorously, optimize your strengths, consider growing and expanding your business and reinvest in its success.

This will require constant monitoring.

Not every athlete captures the gold, however, constant monitoring and exercising increases your business' success and potential for optimum health. We find that when business owners work with us to understand their numbers (and specifically, the key drivers of revenue, profit and cash in their business) and then set stretch targets and monitor both the financial and non-financial key performance indicators every single month, better results are achieved.

You might have noticed similar results with your own body. If you weigh yourself every week, you'll notice if things are getting a little out of control and you can take action to remedy the situation right then and there. On the other hand, if you worry about what your weight might be and as a result, you ignore the bathroom scales, next time you weigh yourself – perhaps in six months time – you might find yourself with a bigger problem than you imagined and it's much harder to sort out.

If you would like to discuss your business' health or would like help with implementing any of the ideas in this article, please contact us. We'd be delighted to work with you to check the pulse on your business.

If you would like to discuss your Business Value Proposition or need assistance in implementing any of the ideas in this article, please contact **Pavilion Accountancy on 01487 898440**

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# Out and About with Cllr Ian Curtis

Firstly, I have some sad news to report. Ian Walker, one of the Ramsey Town Councillors, has tendered his resignation due to ill health. Ian has served Ramsey well over many a year and will be sadly missed, but I would like to thank him for his support over the years.

Onto other matters, changes with the parking regulations now sit with the county council to do the next stage, and we have been told it would be in place by October. The Police Forum at Methodist Church was very well attended and my thanks go to Sgt Street for agreeing to these meetings. If you get a chance to attend one it is very worthwhile; you can air your views and ask questions on police matters.

The civic service was also very well attended, and many dignitaries from other towns and the High Sheriff supported Mayor Cllr Costello alongside several local groups. The new reception at the Golf Club was also excellent, and as always it was an excellent service led by Canon Richard Darmondy.

I am also pleased that Michael Tew has followed me and joined the Conservatives. As a good friend, I look forward to working with him as he has done a great deal of work for the area over the past years and I am certain he will continue to do so.

Finally, congratulations to the Promoting Ramsey Project on their craft market last Saturday. It was a joy to see so many people in Ramsey Town Centre on a Saturday morning: well done everyone. If anyone attending wishes to know more about our regular Saturday market, or is interested in opening a stall on that day, please contact myself or the Ramsey Town Clerk for more information.

*The CRUNCH Gang!*

# CRUNCH is back!

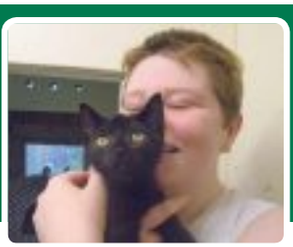
Crunch club started back on Friday 9th September after the Summer break. The sessions for the next term are things the young people have picked. They like active sessions and team games and one of the sessions was human hungry hippo's which was great! This was an amazing new workshop that kick-started our autumn term with a bang!

We've also linked with the Cricket Club because they've had some issues recently due to vandalism. We want to do some sessions there to help out and try to stop people causing damage. After October half-term we're going to move the club there for a while. It will also help during the dark winter nights because lots of our members live near the Cricket Club. The best part is that they also have WiFi ;-)

We want to thank Stephen Buddle from the Cricket Club who is a great guy and works with us despite what some young people have done at his club. He does a fantastic job!

*by Sam Jones*

# The Cats of Wood Green Animal Shelter



*by Punk Carter*

Cat purring is renowned for healing humans and animals alike, which is amazing, unless you do not have a cat of your own. There are sound generators you can use, of course, but nothing alleviates anxiety and stress quite like the heat of a curled up, content cat purring in your lap.

This phenomenon is why places like Wood Green, the Animals Charity can be so beneficial - not only for the animals it houses, but for the people who work and/or visit there regularly. Considering the fact that Wood Green is not very far from Ramsey or surrounding villages (only a half hour drive, if you are lucky enough to not get caught in traffic), it is a fairly easy way to destress.

As learned during a visit there on the 30th August, Wood Green can house up to one hundred cats at a time, which, if you're the type who loves tiny, soft rescue animals who need a home and probably love you as well, is optimal and will probably bring you to tears. Of course, even if you aren't, the effect of being surrounded by so many cats will at the very least take your mind off of the inconveniences and stress of your day-to-day life.

Even with the amount of cats Wood Green houses, there is still additional accommodation made for cats who are not adept at socialization. Sooky, a Bengal, currently resides in the summer house, because he intimidates other cats and it is better for everyone if he is separate from them. However, despite his behavior towards other cats, he is very affectionate and sweet to humans. So, in this case, you win some and you lose some.

As should be expected by a place that houses cats with healing powers, Wood Green is amazing at caring for their cats (and other animals) in a way that keeps both the animals and visitors safe. They have a cat friendly handling policy; ie. no "scruffing" (grabbing by the back of the neck), no picking up cats without reason, and treating the cats when they do something good or follow a command.

The charity has a unit for every cat; each unit includes hiding places (for the more anxiety-inclined feline), two litter boxes (for choice, because cats are fussy), scratching posts (which are placed by doors, so the cats can scent mark), and high and low areas for them to settle in. They are fed twice daily with wet food, and dry throughout, and their litter boxes are changed up to three times a day - sometimes more, dependent on the cat.

Because of how expensive cat food, litter and general check-ups for the cats are, with 40p a pouch of cat food, twice a day, for every cat, as well as the money for litter and dried food, the costs of maintaining Wood Green add up. Not to mention the cost of all of the spaying and neutering that needs to be done; Wood Green's vets complete 100 on an average month. Donations are what keep Wood Green (and places like it) running and the animals housed.

Foster homes are necessary and yearned for, whether for cats who have given birth recently and their kittens, or for cats recovering from surgeries, or simply for cats who don't have a home to turn to.

**£5 will feed 6 cats today, please text PURR1 to 70500 to give £5 to Wood Green, and more information is available on the website (woodgreen.org.uk).**

# Ramsey Heritage Day

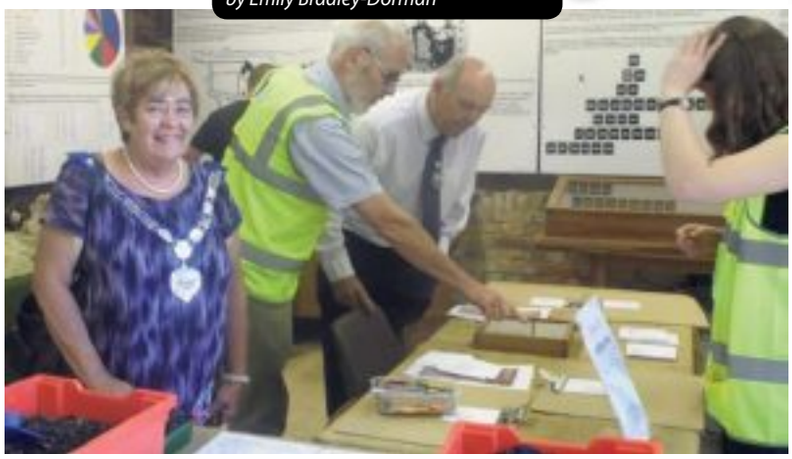
*by Emily Bradley-Dorman*

Last month I wrote about the forthcoming National Heritage Open Day in Ramsey and it did not disappoint! Sunday the 11th of September saw people from all over come and visit our home town to help use celebrate and explore our rich heritage. More people than ever before visited the sites and attractions. Taking advantage of the glorious weather people of all ages came out to enjoy the treasures hidden around Ramsey.

Word of our town's Heritage Day had spread with people from London, Nottingham, Birmingham and Bedford flocking to Ramsey after reading about our open day through the Heritage Open Day website. Everyone who came had an amazing day with the Rural Museum and Fenland Light Railway opening their doors for free making all Ramsey's heritage sites accessible to all.

Philip O'Donoghue from the National Trust called Ramsey's Heritage Day a "Great Day" and with a record 481 visitor through the Abbey Gatehouse you can see why!

Additional activities such as a free vintage bus drove people around the sites in style, making the trip from each site fun and easy. Mayor Adela Costello and the leader of Cambridgeshire County Council Sebastian Kindersley were amongst those taking the first journey. Free printed guides and competitions for adults and children alike added to the excitement of the day. Oxford



*Ruby Stevens took home the prize 'Rammy' , which was presented by Deputy Mayor Doug McIlwain*

Archaeology East joined us with a display and activities to get everyone involved. Family tree researchers were available at Mortuary Chapels and the Thomas a Becket Church ran tours of the bell tower throughout the day. The Rural Museum had a display from the Norris Museum and to round the day off the Walled Kitchen Garden hosted tours every hour giving residents and visitors the opportunity to explore the new glasshouse.

Jane Yardly at Mortuary Chapels said "It was a record day for us, nearly twice as many visitors as last year. They think that Ramsey is wonderful and will come again. Already looking forward to next year."

As mentioned above competitions where

held throughout the day including the hunt for" Rammy" the Ram and his friends. Rammy and his chums were hidden within each of the sites giving children a chance to find them. The winnerRuby Stevens was awarded her very own Rammy at Ramsey's very own Craft Fair on the 24th of September by Deputy Mayor, Doug McIlwain.

The sun was shining and the town was buzzing with activity! Ramsey's annual Heritage Day was a roaring success and we cannot wait to do it again next year! Hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did.

National Heritage Open Day is England's largest grass roots heritage festival involving over 40,000 volunteers and 5,000 events. The scheme is funded by the People's Post Code Lottery and the National Trust.

# RAMSEY POLICE FORUM well attended

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY 101 IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

**Issues including RAF Upwood, speeding and public urination were dealt with at this month's police forum, held in Ramsey Methodist Church on Wednesday 21st September.**

The public posed questions to a panel which included Sergeant Andrew Street, who leads the St Ives and Ramsey local policing team, alongside Police Services Volunteer Chris Shaw and Special Sergeant Mark King, who has been tackling issues in the local area. Over thirty residents were in attendance, including local Parish, Town and District Councillors.

The meeting began with Mr Shaw elaborating on a recent Policing Opinion Survey, which had been conducted the previous month. Despite almost none of the attendees having completed the survey, 97 responses were recorded and results showed a clear concern about speeding and burglary, which police will now take into consideration going forward.

Sergeant Street then proceeded to examine some of the comments made by respondents, including several concerns about the perceived lack of police presence in the area. When the meeting was opened to public questions, one concern was also a lack of police cars. "We don't have as big a police presence in Ramsey as I would like", commented Sergeant Street, elaborating that there are more officers than vehicles.

Other concerns varied from specific instances of criminality to matters of social care and drugs offences. Particularly mentioned was a lack of speed enforcement, which Sergeant Street admitted had fallen by the wayside due to a number of staffing issues. The St Ives and Ramsey Policing team recently lost two members, who have taken on roles elsewhere, and that replacement staff had not received the training necessary to operate a speed-gun. However, Sergeant Street did remain hopeful that speed checks would begin anew, possibly with help from the Specials, and that he would chase up one resident's concerns regarding the speed-check van having not visited particular areas of St Mary's.

Having taken note of residents' concerns, the meeting broke up at 9Pm.

## What is a Special Constable?

The special constabulary is a force of trained volunteers who work with and support their local police. 'Specials', as special constables are known, come from all walks of life and they all volunteer a minimum of four hours a week to their local police force, forming a vital link between the regular (full-time) police and the local community. Once they have completed their training, they have the same powers as regular officers and wear a similar uniform.

Sergeant King began his vocation as a Special in Enfield, North London, and has been part of this volunteer force for several years. Despite also working full time in the technology industry, he also spends 50-60 hours as a special and, being a resident of Ramsey, has recently begun to take on a list of tasks set by Sergeant Street relating directly to the area. This work includes patrolling RAF Upwood in an attempt to curb the trespassing in that area.

Sergeant King not only has all the powers of a regular policeman, but also the power to bring more specials into the Ramsey area. The police are always looking for volunteers, not only for the special constabulary but also in other areas, such as the police service volunteers.

For more information, go to http://www.policecouldyou.co.uk/ or http://www.cambs.police.uk/

# BUYING A USED CAR
## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR!

We've all been there. Suddenly, that prized motor we thought would last forever has given up the ghost and simply won't make it past the MOT. Now, we're forced to get out there and look for a new run-around. While this can be a bit of fun, test driving new cars and seeing what works, there are a few traps you can fall into as well! Just to be sure you don't end up hard done by, here is a couple of things to look out for!

**Write Off Categories**

Most reputable merchants will add a little note if the car has been part of an insurance claim in its past. Categories range from D, where the car has been written off because it would be too costly to repair, through the more serious Category C's and B's into Category A, where the car is considered too dangerous to drive. While these might not worry you, it's worth keeping an eye out just to make sure!

**Clocking**

Clocking is the practice of winding back the odometer on a high–mileage car to increase its apparent value and asking price. This can be lucrative for dealers, as every 1,000 miles removed increases the value substantially, but is also highly illegal. This is tough to spot, but experts recommend checking that there are no indications of long motorway journeys, such as Chips made by stones across the front of the bonnet, or looking to see if a shiny, worn steering wheel would be more likely to be seen on a high mileage vehicle. Also, an older vehicle with virtually new pedals/gearstick and/or upholstery may indicate that something is being hidden. Generally speaking, is its

**Car Cloning or 'Cut–and–shut'**

Sometimes one car is given the identity of another by replacing the number plates with those from an almost identical vehicle - same make, model and colour. This is called car cloning. Another technique is to take the remains of two or more cars, which have usually been accident–damaged and written off by insurers, and weld them together, then illegally give the identity of one of the wrecks. In most cases, the cosmetic work is often outstanding, and it's usually very difficult to spot either method from the outside. However, both of these can be unearthed with a car data check, which is recommended for peace of mind.

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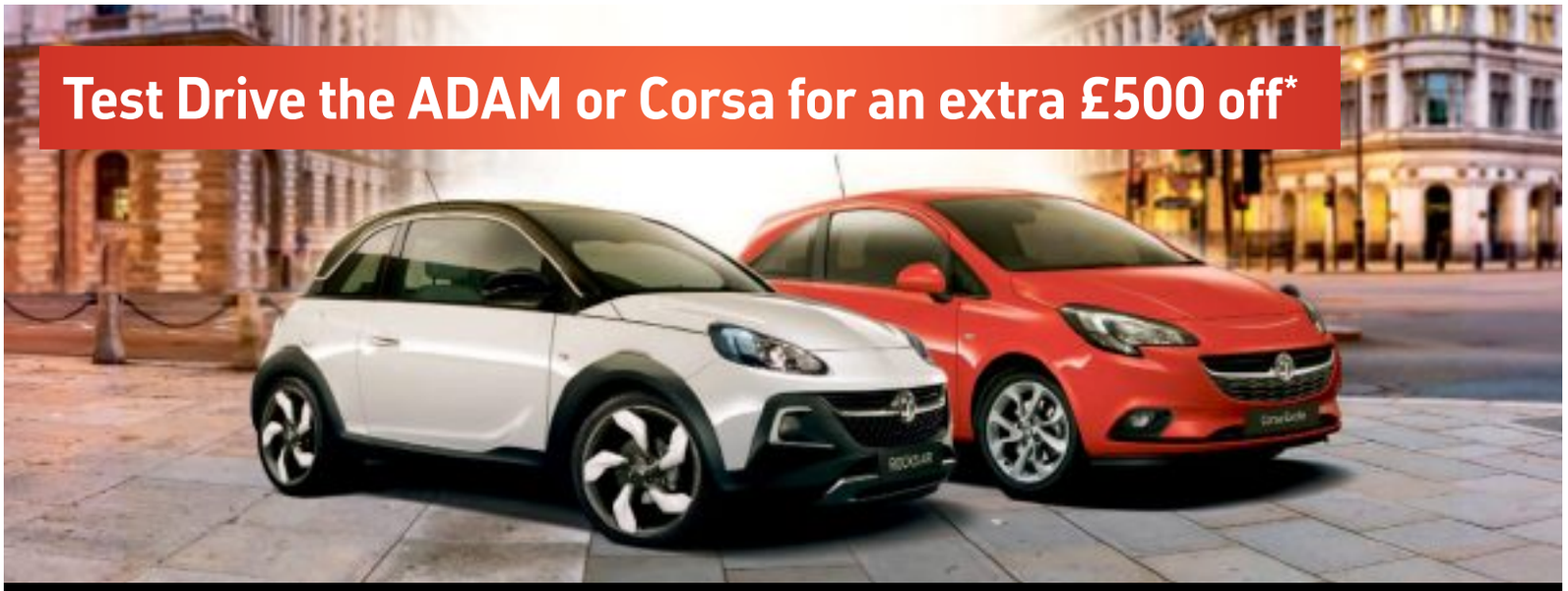

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| 64 | Corsa 1.2 Excite (Ltd Ed) 5Dr, Red, 14,000 Miles | | £6,495 |
| 13 | Corsa 1.2 Energy 3Dr, Orange, Air Con, 25,000 Miles | £5,995 | £5,495 |
| 10 | Corsa 1.4 SE Auto, Black, 46,000 Miles | £5,495 | £4,995 |
| 61 | Corsa 1.2 Excite (Ltd Ed) 3Dr, Orange, 23,000 Miles | | £4,995 |
| 59 | Corsa 1.2 5Dr Semi-Auto, Met Blue, 74,000 Miles | | £3,495 |
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| 15 | Insignia 2.0 Turbo Diesel, Black, Only 2,500 Miles, Save £7,000 From New | £16,995 | £14,995 |
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| | **EX-DEMOS** | **WAS** | **NOW** |
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| 65 | New Shape Astra 1.6 Turbo Diesel SRi 5Dr, Flame Red, Only 3,000 Miles | £16,995 | £15,995 |
| 64 | Insignia 2.0 CDTi Ltd Ed, Black, 5,500 Miles Only, Price New | £14,995 | £13,995 |
| 16 | Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv, Met Grey, Only 400 Miles | | £13,995 |
| 16 | Corsa 1.0T Limited Edition, White, Low Miles | | £13,995 |
| 16 | Adam Rocks 1.2 3Dr, Blue, 2,000 Miles | | £12,995 |

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| | OTHER MAKES | WAS | NOW |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Renault Captur Dynamique 1.5TD, Blue, Sat Nav, Only 4,500 Miles | £11,995 | £11,495 |
| 14 | Ford Focus 1.0T Titanium Nav, White, 17,000 Miles, Lovely People | | £10,995 |
| 13 | Ford C-Max Titanium 5Dr, Only 8,000 Miles | | £10,995 |
| 13 | Citroen Picasso C3 1.6 Diesel, Blue, 14,000 Miles | | £8,495 |
| 62 | Ford Focus 1.0 Turbo 5 Door, Silver 32,000 Miles, Local Car | | £7,995 |
| 12 | Ford Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5Dr Auto, Silver, 24,000 Miles, Lovely People | £7,995 | £7,495 |
| 13 | Ford Fiesta 1.0 Zetec 5Dr, White, Air Con, 24,000 Miles, Lovely People | £7,495 | £6,995 |
| 58 | Peugeot 207 S/W 1.4 Dual Fuel (Petrol/LPG), Grey, 23,000 Miles | | £4,495 |
| 06 | Ford Focus Zetec 1.6 Auto, Silver, 81,000 Miles, Lovely People | £2,995 | £2,595 |
| 59 | Nissan Pixon N-Tec 5Dr, Silver, 80,000 Miles, Ideal First Car | £2,995 | £2,695 |
| 57 | Citroen C3 1.4 Cool, Black, 74,000 Miles | £2,695 | £2,495 |

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VAUXHALL

# fun with friends of the Great Fen

## Squadron Leader Swoop and the Holme Fen Spitfire

Once again it had been a very busy day in the Great Fen. Squadron leader Swoop, the Marsh Harrier, had been flying out several times and with his amazing birds eye view had been able to report back to many other creatures of his sightings. He had stopped off at the home of the short eared owls and had told them of his findings.

"I'm not quite sure chaps what's going on down there but there seems a lot of activity" he continued "there are lots of people, and I mean lots of people, all milling about. There's a digger and cars everywhere" Swoop scratched his head with his outstretched claw. "They seem to be in the field where the old spitfire went down"

Many of the creatures that had assembled to hear his findings now looked at him wide eyed, waiting for his next instalment of what was going on. Amongst them was Verity the water vole who was always ready to hear a new tale so that she could pass on the story to her friends in one of her long chats. Next to her stood an intrigued Newton.

Newton couldn't wait to go and find out for himself what was going on. Newton was a great crested newt. He was always ready for the next adventure and by what Swoop was saying, something exiting may be happening. He was ready. His back pack was always full of his survival gear, just in case. He could be off at a minutes notice and never missed a chance of an adventure.

Luna the dragonfly listened to everyone chatter and patiently waited for her chance to say something.

"I wonder what he's spotted" she queried " I hope it's nothing dangerous"

"I'll make another quick sortie to check the situation" said Swoop in his official voice "I'll report back to you at 11am precisely. All of you wait here until I come back with an update" At that Swoop was off, high up in the sky within just a few seconds.

"He's so bossy" said Luna "He's not the only one that can fly"

"Yes" agreed Newton "but just look how high he goes, he can see everything from up there"

**Excitement gathers...**

Luna nodded in agreement and darted around with her delicate wings catching the light like a sprinkle of glitter.

Before they knew it Swoop was back.

"I don't believe it" he told them "I really don't believe it chaps!

"Believe what" shouted Newton, hardly containing his excitement. He jumped up and down and his long tail almost knocked Verity over "Sorry Verity, are you Ok. Have you got your stick" he asked feeling quite embarrassed. "I'm OK" said Verity straightening her shawl.

"I really don't believe it" Swoop repeated

"Oh for goodness sake, spit it out Swoop, what don't you believe" Newton shouted jumping from foot to foot in eagerness to find out.

"Well" continued Swoop "You had all better sit down and listen to this".

Everyone gathered round. Luna looked worried, Verity put her stick on the floor and nestled up against a large mound of earth, Newton checked through his back pack to make doubly sure he was ready. The short eared owls were nowhere to been seen and had flown off some time ago, as had a very large Red Kite who had also been observing the day's activities from above.

"Well, long ago, my grandfather, Marshall Swoop the Third, told me about a spitfire. It was World War Two and all over this Great Fen area there were planes flying about everywhere. Some went off on missions all over Germany and just up the road, through the trees, was Holmewood Hall. That's where they stored all the bombs you know. Well" continued Swoop "My Grandfather, Marshall Swoop the Third, he told me that one cold November day three spitfires flew over. One got in to trouble and crashed, the other two flew off. People from around here ran over to see what had happened but the plane had gone straight in the ground. Peat soil you see, very soft stuff" Swoop dug his claws in to the ground and scratched the soil, it was soft indeed " Well the poor pilot lost his life that day and although they did what they could, they just couldn't dig the plane out and it's been there ever since. Until today"

"What do you mean until today" asked Luna, still looking worried.

"There digging it up, that's what they are doing all those people they are digging it up. It's just amazing after all these years."

That was enough to encourage Newton. He was off to see for himself. It would be quite a trek but he was ready. He had everything he needed and Swoop would always keep an eye out for him and point him in the right direction.

"I'll stay here " said Verity, its too far for me. "Me too" agreed Luna.

**Newton's journey...**

It took some time but Newton made it and from the corner of the field he could see exactly what was going on. He saw the large pieces of metal come out of the ground and heard everyone when they stopped and remembered the Pilot and what had happened all those years ago. The noisy digger had stopped and even the birds in the trees knew it was time to stop singing as they silently stood and remembered.

"Thanks Swoop for telling me all this" said Newton.

"My pleasure my dear Chap" nodded Swoop, feeling more important than ever before. "My pleasure"

## The Great Fen Quest App...

Download this digital App available on ipads and desk top computers. Come and join Newton the Great Crested Newt on a fantastic journey around the Great Fen to help him collect ingredients for his birthday cake! The Great Fen is a very special place for wildlife to live and for people to visit. Children will get the chance to hunt for hidden treasures, complete puzzles and challenges. As well as meeting some of Newton's friends, that live in this amazing place, whilst discovering some wonderful wildlife facts.

Each level within the game introduces new knowledge and requires different skills – a fantastic challenge within a nature focused environment.

Are you interested in the Great Fen Project? Why not visit them at: The Wildlife Trust Countryside Centre, Chapel Road, Ramsey Heights, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE26 2RS

### Squadron leader Swoop the Marsh Harrier

Attention! Now you chaps are you listening? I'd like to introduce myself. Swoops the name. Squadron leader Swoop. Busy chap. I've always got a job to do. Spend most of my days over the Great Fen on surveillance duties. Report back my missions to the Team. I'm literally the eyes and ears of what's happening on the ground. I'm the eye in the sky and all that. I know what's going on where, when and how. Need to know something, then I'm your man.

### Newton the Newt.

Hey Guys. Yeah it's me, Newton the newt. To be precise I'm a Great Crested Newt which means I'm a protected species! Yeah man. They even have a sign to prove I am.. Cool eh! I just love exploring. I'm an all out there type of guy, nothing scares me! I want to see it all, I want to do it all and I will survive!

If there's and adventure to be had I will be there, map in hand and backpack full ready to go. Come on an adventure with me Newton and you'll have the time of your life!

### Luna the dragonfly.

Excuse me but can I tell you a little about me. I'm a bit shy really and don't like talking about myself. I'm a dragonfly and my name is Luna. I get a little embarrassed when people tell me I am so beautiful. It's because I have such large eyes and a long slender body that sometimes glistens bright blue in the sunlight. I spend a lot of time sunbathing, just perching on reeds near the edges of ponds and rivers. I love the sunshine and a day out by the water's edge with a mosquito picnic is my ideal way to spend the day.

Great Fen

# No tricks, just treats for children in October half term

One Leisure Ramsey are pleased to offer FREE crèche spaces for under 6's so mum or dad can go to the gym, have a swim or attend a fitness class knowing their child is having fun in a safe environment.

The crèche is now included with Premier membership at all One Leisure sites for no additional charge. This is available to both new and existing Premier members.

This new benefit entitles Premier members who have children under 6 years of age to book their child into the crèche for up to 1½ hours per day. If you have more than one child under 6 you can book more than one child in as part of your membership.

The Premier membership includes unlimited use of the Impressions Fitness Suite, the Swimming Pool and over 250 fitness classes at all five One Leisure sites.

Further information please **visit www.oneleisure.net** or contact One Leisure Ramsey on **01480 388111.**

# FREE crèche spaces for under 6's at One Leisure Ramsey

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The crèche is now included with Premier membership at all One Leisure sites for no additional charge. This is available to both new and existing Premier members.

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The Premier membership includes unlimited use of the Impressions Fitness Suite, the Swimming Pool and over 250 fitness classes at all five One Leisure sites.

Further information please visit www.oneleisure.net or contact One Leisure Ramsey on 01480 388111.

# October half term **activities** for children

Oneleisure®

Managed by Huntingdonshire District Council

## Monday 24th October to Sunday 30th October 2016

One Leisure Ramsey has organised a packed programme of half term holiday activities guaranteed to keep children of all ages active and entertained.

- **Swimming**
- **Indoor Canoeing**
- **Old Fashioned Sports Day**
- **Run-around Games**
- **Teen Aerobics**
- **Halloween Party**
- **Spooky Art & Crafts**
- **Zombie Nerf Wars**
- **Cyclone Indoor Cycling**
- **Court 4 Kids Offer**

Pick up a children's October half term programme from reception at One Leisure Ramsey, download from **www.oneleisure.net** or call **01480 388111**.

# Ramsey Pavilion FC Match Reports

*by Jon Cade*

**Sat 3rd September**

***March Rangers - 4***
***Ramsey Pavilion - 3***

For their inaugural Cambs Division 2B fixture, Ramsey Pavilion travelled to Estover Road to take on March Rangers.

They got off to the best possible start when striker Kyle McPartlin coasted past two Rangers' defenders and calmly slotted the ball under the advancing 'keeper to give the Pavo's an early 1-0 lead inside 5 minutes. That was the case until 40 minutes when a Rangers through ball caught defenders off guard and the striker finished well to make the score 1-1 at the break.

If the first started well for The Pavo's then the second could not have started any worse. In a bizarre 5 minute period Rangers scored first from a free kick which struck the bar before ricocheting into the net off the stranded 'keeper Jason Wilson. They added a third with a well taken chip from distance and then a fourth goal from another free kick, this time headed into his own net by defender Stu Turner.

Despite being 4-1 down, the Pavo's continued to battle and were rewarded when a Steve Hurst free kick resulted in a penalty for shirt pulling. Kyle McPartlin converted from the spot to make it 4-2 and, as the players went to re-start, the Rangers defender that gave away the penalty was given a second yellow card for showing dissent towards the referee. Shortly after a second Rangers player was given his marching orders, this time a second booking for a second incident of simulation.

With a two man advantage Ramsey Pavilion began to dominate possession but still struggled to create clear cut chances as Rangers clung on. The Pavo's persistence eventually paid off as a well worked move ended in Steve Hurst finishing well from 10yds out to make it 4-3. They continued to search for an equaliser in a frantic last 5 minutes and were almost rewarded when Dan Short's effort struck the upright but in the end it wasn't to be and March Rangers hung on to win 4-3.

**Saturday 10th September**

***Wisbech St Mary A - 3***
***Ramsey Pavilion - 5***

Matchday 2 in the Mead Plant & Grab Cambs Division 2B saw Ramsey Pavilion make the trip to Wisbech St. Mary A. Excellent pitch conditions looked as though they would favour the away side's brand of flowing Football but it wasn't long before they were on the back foot as Wisbech made the most of two defensive lapses to take an early 2 goal lead.

Despite the early set back, The Pavos kept their heads and it wasn't long before they were back in the game. Good work from Tom Allgood out wide resulted in a cross that the Wisbech 'keeper was unable to deal with and Jamie Hurst was on hand to slot home. That made the score 2-1 and soon after The Pavos found themselves back on level terms when a long clearance from debutant 'keeper Dan Shire was calmly finished by Jamie Perry.

Both sides continued to create chances with neither looking solid and at the back and it was The Pavos who once again took advantage. Kyle McPartlin slotting home a penalty for his third goal of the season. An excellent end to a half that had started poorly.

The 2nd half continued where the 1st had left off with both teams creating chances, McPartlin had two good chances including one cleared off the line and Jamie Perry headed over from close range when it looked easier to score, but it was Wisbech who drew level thanks a long range effort that just evaded Shire at full stretch. 3-3

Both teams enjoyed periods of sustained pressure but it was The Pavos who capitalised, Player/Manager Matt Brading giving them a 4-3 lead with a well taken free kick, and soon after it was 5-3 when McPartlin unselfishly squared for Skipper Steve Hurst to score and secure an historic first 3 points for the league new boys

## Want to get involved?

We have set Ramsey Pavilion FC up as a Community Interest Company (CIC) therefore were are looking to engage with the local community as much as we possibly can. We want this to be a club that people can get involved in if they have any sort on interest in Sport, not just through participating. They might be interested in a career in Sports Journalism, Photography, Physiotherapy even Marketing & Social Media. It could be anything so what we want to do is help and encourage people to pursue these interests as much as we can.

We also have a variety of very affordable sponsorship opportunities available to local businesses through which we can help them to increase their profile within the local community. We have already secured very generous sponsorship donations from 'ERMS Fresh Solutions' and 'Xtreme Events Ltd' towards our new kit and 'Kleanco Dry Cleaners' in Ramsey have also very kindly agreed to clean the kit each week.

**Anyone who wishes to find out more about Ramsey Pavilion FC can visit our website for more information. www.ramsey-pavilionfc.co.uk/**

# SWIMMING POOL TIMETABLE ONE LEISURE RAMSEY

## Timetable is effective to Sunday 23rd October (for October half term visit ww.oneleisure.net)

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Mo** | Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30 | Baby & Toddler Lessons 9.30 - 10.00 | Private Use 10.00 - 11.00 | Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55 | Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00 | Private Use 1.00 - 3.30 | Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00 | Public Swim +1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30 | | Lane Swim 7.30 - 9.00 |
| **Tu** | Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30 | Private Use 9.00 - 11.00 | | Aquafit 11.05 - 11.55 | Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00 | Private Use 1.00 - 4.00 | Junior Lessons 4.00 - 6.00 | Public Swim 6.00 - 7.00 | Lane Swim 7.00 - 8.00 | Private Use 8.00 - 9.00 |
| **We** | Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30 | Baby & Toddler Lessons 9.30 - 10.00 | Aquanatal 10.05 - 10.55 | Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55 | Aquafit 12.05 - 12.55 | Private Use 1.00 - 3.30 | Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00 | Floats Fun 6.00 - 7.00 | Aquafit 7.05 - 7.55 | Lane Swim 8.00 - 9.00 |
| **Th** | Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30 | Private Use 9.00 - 10.30 | | Adult Lessons 10.30 - 11.30 | Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00 | Private Use 1.00 - 4.00 | Junior Lessons 4.00 - 6.00 | Public Swim +1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30 | | Lane Swim 7.30 - 9.00 |
| **Fr** | Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30 | Private Use 9.30 - 11.00 | | Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55 | Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00 | Private Use 1.00 - 3.00 | Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00 | Public Swim +1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30 | | Canoe Club 7.30 - 9.30 |
| **Sa** | Early Birds 7.30 - 8.30 | Junior Lessons 8.30 - 12.00 | | | Party Hire 12.00 - 12.50 | Floats Fun 1.00 - 3.00 | | Party Hire 3.00 - 3.50 | Swimming pool closes at 3.50pm | |
| **Su** | Lane Swim 8.00 - 9.00 | Family Fun 9.00 - 11.00 | | Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55 | Party Hire 12.00 - 12.50 | Floats Fun 1.00 - 2.30 | | Public Swim + 1 Lane 2.30 - 4.00 | Swimming pool closes at 4.00pm | |

# ADAMS FITNESS CHALLENGE

## PART 2 - A PAIN IN THE POSTERIOR!

Thus far in life, I have never found a trickier problem to solve than how to make an exercise bike seat more comfortable. The issue has consumed so much of my recent thinking that I felt the title above was almost inevitable. I have tried padding (seemed to make this worse), cycling shorts (not a pleasant image) and even at one point a cushion (didn't end well for the cushion). The reason I was suffering? For the first week I was stranded at home with no way to get into One Leisure, leading me to ask an interesting question….

### TO GYM OR NOT TO GYM

Living in Bury for most of my life, a car has been somewhat necessary. Therefore, it never occurred to me that living without it would make this challenge difficult, but of course there are plenty of residents who don't drive. What then? Biking is a possibility, but alas the only bike I own remains resolutely stationary, while running or walking the two and a half miles was plausible before an hour-long workout, but caused certain problems on the way back (fatigue, dehydration, looking really daft and sweaty). And I only live in Bury, those in Warboys or the Ramsey Villages face a significant lack of pavements on which to walk. The only answer, as far as I could tell, was to work out at home on my now hated exercise bike, and then compare with a week's hard gym-ing once I had my wheels back. Here is what I discovered.

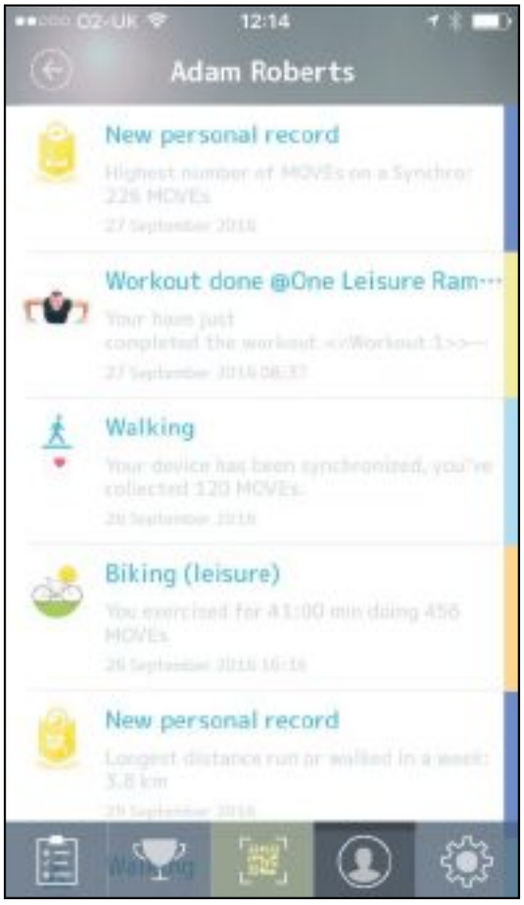
There are several pros to working out at home. For one, it's much easier to find the time (see further on), and you can enjoy all the comforts of privacy while you work up a sweat. At the start of the week, I happily filled two 30 minute workouts per day without much hassle, able to put on a film and pedal away. It got a bit boring on the third day, so I switched to a more exciting film. Then the fourth, and fifth, and sixth. By the end, I was so bored of that same 30-minute cycle that I was writing, working, even playing video games to keep my mind off the task!

Of course, I know you'll be thinking, you could buy a couple of machines, maybe throw a run in or (heaven forbid) get an actual push-bike. But the costs add up, and come out in one go, whereas a monthly gym membership is far easier to swallow. By next week, I rather enjoyed my three hour long sessions. I was working harder, with muscle groups and exercises that my lowly bike didn't even begin to cover being thoroughly challenged.

### FINDING THE TIME

The other issue was getting my timings in order this month! It's easy to find the time for one gym session, but two or three? Add some additional cardio into the mix and everything gets a little tight! At the worst point, I had completely muddled this all up and arrived 30 minutes late to my next meeting…

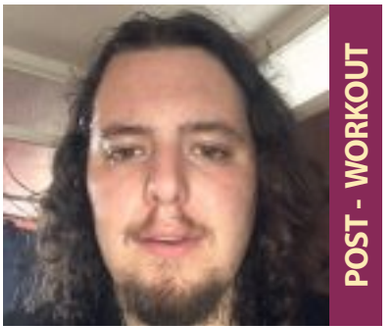
Is there an easy solution to this? Sadly not, but I found the more sessions I fit in, the more I wanted to get another one in. Once you get started, the motivation is there and you will do just about anything not to stop and loose it, for fear of giving back all those gains. It helps when you have something keeping you on track, which brings me to my next point!




### STAYING 'APPY

One of the best features of the One Leisure Gym Membership, and there are plenty to choose from, is the companion app on my phone. 'My Wellness' is downloadable for free, and links in with all your activities in the fitness suite automatically, which made it nice and easy for me to keep track of my MOVEs (a measurement the app uses to track your daily exercise) and keep up the pressure to improve.

Each week, you not only get a target to try and beat but also an opportunity to log any additional exercise you did, choosing the activity from a vast list. As an addition, I would highly recommend downloading it.




### WHAT'S CHANGED?

Of course, all this is somewhat for nothing if you don't have a goal. So, what have I achieved so far?

At the start of the month, I weighed 102kg. Now, I weigh 96. That's a stone this month alone. I am a happy man...

This is the first time I've weighed in at under 100kg for around four years. In fact, records kept by the gym show the first time I attempted to sign up I was up around 115 kg, so 96 feels like a real achievement. That being said, the weight is just the start.

I honestly feel fitter. I can't quantify that statement. I find you get more of a sense in your day to day life – I'm much happier wandering around the fields of Plough day and making my regular semi-jogging trips about the Great Whyte trying to snap a decent photo. I don't get as hot wandering about, and I can climb the previously pesky steps at a multi-story with a little more spring in my step!

It's even affected my confidence (not that it was in short supply to begin with). Knowing that the kind folks at Ramsey One Leisure have seen my exhausted, sweaty blob look I feel better in my regular style when out and about! And, of course, it's always fun to see those belt notches get tighter!

As always drop us an email to let us know what you think! Have you been getting fit? Are you thinking of dropping down the gym? Please let me know how you get on!

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## Christmas Opening Times

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*Steve takes on the 10th hole as the crowds look on*

# ANOTHER TOP TEN FINISH FOR STEVE LOVELL

Steve Lovell, the Ramsey based minigolfer, grabbed tenth place in a gruelling weekend of competition at the British Open in Hastings. Sitting in fifth spot after day one and looking to push on to the podium, Steve faded in the final two rounds suffering mental fatigue.

"Playing ten rounds at that level of intensity against the best players in the country and from overseas was something I hadn't accounted for. I started day two so well but just couldn't maintain it", said Steve. He had reached as high as fourth before dropping back but took a lot of positives from the experience. "It has been my best finish in the British Open so far and I feel next time I go that deep into a tournament, I'll be better prepared." Steve went on to say. He also set personal bests for most aces in a row, six, and most holes in a row without dropping a shot, 107.

The result leaves Steve third overall in the order of merit with just three events remaining in the year, the next being the Welsh Open in Cardiff mid-October.

*Steve narrowly misses at the 16th*


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